

February 18, 2025

TO: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services  
FROM: Ali King on behalf of Our Children Oregon's 2025 Children's Agenda  
SUBJECT: Support for HB 2452

Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO). I am writing on behalf of The Children's Agenda, convened by OCO, which brings together a coalition of more than 135 organizations statewide dedicated to improving child wellbeing in Oregon.

**House Bill 2452 is a top priority of the 2025 Children's Agenda** and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.

As advocates for children and families in Oregon, we have seen firsthand the need for a major transformation of Oregon's child care system. Child Care Resource and Referral organizations play a key role in supporting families and child care providers, particularly for underserved communities.

According to Family Forward Oregon, More than 25% of families enrolled in Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) are unable to connect to a provider and, on the flip side, providers with ERDC certification are struggling with enrollment. Cuts to ERDC have left 9,000 families on a waitlist and destabilized the child care market. **The 2024 OR Talent assessment found the largest labor shortage in the state is in child care at 12.6%.**

HB 2452 would empower local CCRR agencies to provide hands-on support for families and providers and would fully fund ERDC at \$500M to eliminate the waitlist and rebuild Oregon's child care system.

Thank you for the work you do to support Oregon's children and families.

**We urge your support for HB 2452 to help build a more equitable, accessible, and sustainable child care system in Oregon.**

Sincerely,

Our Children Oregon

Family Forward

Baby Blues Connection

Black Parent Initiative

Children's Institute

Housing Oregon

Latino Network

Next Up Action Fund

Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries

Oregon Association of Student Councils

Oregon Center for Public Policy

Oregon Food Bank

Oregon School Nurses' Association

Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Prevent Child Abuse Oregon

Reach Out and Read NW

Southern Oregon Success

Urban League of Portland

Washington County Kids

View the [2025 Children's Agenda](#)

Learn more at:

[www.OurChildrenOregon.org/2025-childrens-agenda](http://www.OurChildrenOregon.org/2025-childrens-agenda)

For questions, contact Ali King, Policy & Advocacy Director

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