

Submitter: Audreona Mullens
On Behalf Of: Audreona Mullens
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2452

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, members of the committee:

My name is Audreona , and I am a parent of one child, who is an amazing 5 year old . As a resident of Oregon, I am here today to express my strong support for House Bill 2452.

As a parent, I have faced significant challenges in finding quality child care that meets the needs of my family. Despite my best efforts using 211, referrals, etc., I have struggled to find affordable and reliable options that align with my work schedule and my children's unique needs. This has resulted in anxiety about my ability to maintain employment, give my child the social and educational opportunities he needed. We found an amazing childcare provider, however her business is always in jeopardy because she relies on ERDC families more than private pay like my own. She can't find families who have an ERDC voucher, and families can't find her. Considering she specializes in childcare for children with disabilities and who are neurodivergent, she is a much needed resource in our community!

That's why I believe that child care resource and referral directors (CCRRs) are essential in helping families like mine access quality child care. CCRRs provide a vital service by connecting parents with vetted providers, offering guidance and coaching on evaluating care options, and supporting us in navigating the complex child care system.

House Bill 2452 will enable CCRRs to expand their services and better support families like mine. If HB 2452 passes, I believe that my family will directly benefit from the expanded services offered by CCRRs. By providing grants to CCRRs, this bill will help ensure that:

- More families have access to quality child care
- Parents receive the support they need to make informed decisions about their children's care
- Child care providers are held to high standards, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for our children

In conclusion, I urge you to support House Bill 2452. This legislation has the potential to make a significant difference in the lives of Oregon families like mine. By investing in CCRRs, we can ensure that all parents have access to the resources they need to

provide their children with a strong foundation for success.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Audreona