



Child Care That Works. For Every Family.

To: House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services

From: Child Care for Oregon

Date: February 20, 2025

RE: In Support of HB 2452

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

My name is Misha, and I am a mother in Corvallis Oregon. 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.

We started looking for childcare providers when I was only twelve weeks pregnant, and the best option we found didn't expect to have a space available for our daughter until she was six months old. Neither of us could take that much time off work and keep our job or pay our bills. In a stroke of luck, my husband got a new job toward the end of my pregnancy and we were able to secure a space in their onsite childcare. We were happy to have care, but we soon began to have concerns about our daughter's safety. Staff turnover was high, communication was poor, and several alarming comments were made about sleep arrangements.

We decided to search for a new provider and put our daughter on several waitlists. It took about four months to secure a spot at a more expensive center. I am so grateful to have a provider we trust and the ability to make ends meet (barely), but it didn't happen until she was a year old. Oregon families deserve better. They deserve fully funded, secure, and quality childcare that is not impossible to access or based on a lottery's chance of finding a space. Stories like mine are commonplace and not all end with families finding the right fit, or responsive care they need.

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



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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. 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

If HB 2452 passes, I believe that families like mine who are or have been desperate for childcare will directly benefit from the expanded services offered by CCRRs. Specifically, I know that Oregon families in my own community will have easier access and peace of mind I did not have, knowing they will be able to get access to the childcare they need. My community will be happier and safer, and that benefits my family too.

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,

Misha Lind