



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 Dina, and I am a childcare provider here in Oregon. As a resident of Oregon, I am here today to express my strong support for House Bill 2452. The care I provide for families is the start of their children's educational journeys. It's hard work to take care of children at this important developmental stage. Maintaining my credentials is constant education for me and other childcare providers. We have to pay for all of that education out of our own pockets. The same way we pay to provide meals, toys, and safe learning environments for children. We are professionals, who truly care about providing care.

But we are operating in an imperfect system that not only costs us personally, but costs us as a community and state. When providers can't afford to feed themselves or their families and families can't find or afford childcare we see those impacts for years down the road. Families and providers suffer emotionally, financially, and feel like there isn't a lot of hope.

As a Provider, I have faced significant challenges in keeping my daycare slots full. Despite my best efforts using 211, marketing, friends & family referrals, etc., I have struggled to keep my childcare business open, and financially sustainable for me. . This has resulted in a lot of stress, unmet financial obligations. My rates are based on the ERDC rates, and families who can't access it because of long waitlists also can't afford to pay out of pocket for those rates. I shouldn't feel guilty being paid for the work I do, but I know it's hard for families to give me that money. I am the only care provider they can rely on to allow them to go to work. They need me to be able to support their families and I need them to support my own.

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 parents and providers in navigating the complex child care system.



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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 my childcare business will directly benefit from the expanded services offered by CCRRs. Specifically, families being referred to me because of the quality, and linguistically and culturally specific programming I offer. I wouldn't just be a name on a list of 10s or hundreds. They would have a recommendation from a trusted source, and support in making sure I am the right provider for their families.

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,

Dina Lopez