



Child Care That Works. For Every Family.

To: House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services

From: Child Care for Oregon

Date: February 21, 2025

RE: In Support of HB 2452

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

My name is Jennifer Starck, and I am a parent of two children ages 7 and 3 as well as a social worker . 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 (currently part of the behavioral health workforce) as well as my family's needs.

I had personal experiences with 211 initially in 2017 where I was given 3 numbers of local providers and handouts about how to choose a childcare provider. I recall none of the three providers being available, one had a waitlist for infants that was 18 months, but the education was helpful in learning about different types of licenses and providers. Using my understanding of systems (I have a social work education) and the education provided I was able to find a high quality childcare educator in my neighborhood that raised my child from 6 months to toddler age.

I have tried recently to use 211 to locate care, needing 24/7 availability, and I was overwhelmed by the number of referrals, the long wait lists for children under age 2 (at the time), and the number of providers I was given info for that are inaccessible to me due to income requirements (head start and preschool promise). This has resulted in use of informal arrangements, stress and anxiety, and missed opportunities for my family.

I believe that child care resource and referral directors (CCRRs) are essential in helping families like mine access quality child care. CCRRs will provide a vital service by connecting parents with vetted providers, offering guidance and coaching on evaluating care options, and supporting us in navigating Oregon's 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 family will directly benefit from the expanded services offered by CCRRs. Specifically, I will be able to find high quality, reliable child care that aligns with my work schedule, and allow the other adults in my family peace of mind to pursue other opportunities available to them.

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,
Jennifer Starck