

February 28, 2025

TO: House Early Childhood & Human Services Committee

FROM: Michelle Fuentes, Our Children Oregon

SUBJECT: Support for HB 3560

Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Scharf and Nguyen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle Fuentes. I am the Policy and Advocacy Intern with Our Children Oregon (OCO). OCO is a statewide nonprofit committed to whole child wellbeing through the Children's Agenda- a comprehensive legislative agenda created and supported by our over 135 member organizations across the state.

Access to quality child care supports children's developing brains and bodies. Child care supports parents' ability to work and attend college. Further, child care supports the economy, allowing companies to fill open positions with a ready workforce. In short, **Oregon kids, families, and businesses need child care.**

This bill is important to me because I am a single parent of two children. Not only does childcare support parents work and invest in their future by attending college but it helps children brain development and social skills. I have been privileged to see the growth in both my children since they have attended daycare. Oregon is ranked 43rd in the nation for education<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://assets.aecf.org/m/databook/2024-KCDB-profile-OR.pdf>

Expanding child care would allow for young children to learn at a young age and be academically successful. Raising children requires a village and expanding child care would allow parents to have ease in mind that their child is a safe space while working or attending school. I urge you to think about the future of Oregon through childcare opportunities for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Michelle Fuentes, Policy and Advocacy Intern, Our Children Oregon

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