

March 4, 2025

TO: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
FROM: Ali King on behalf of Our Children Oregon's 2025 Children's Agenda
SUBJECT: Support for HB 3201

Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Sharf, and members of the committee,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO), a statewide organization that advances equitable policies, data and research, and whole-child advocacy. The Children's Agenda, convened annually by OCO, brings together more than 135 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the wellbeing of Oregon's children, youth, and families. **HB 3201, The Child and Adult Care Food Program, is a top priority of the 2025 Children's Agenda and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.**

In Oregon, 1 in 6 children face food insecurity, with rates 2-3 times higher for children of color. In 2021, 13.8% of Oregon children were living in poverty and more than 248,000 youth received SNAP benefits.¹

As advocates for Oregon's children, we have seen firsthand how critical access to nutritious food is for early childhood development. During COVID-19, key supports were implemented in The Child and Adult Care Food Program to streamline and modernize the program, increasing access to healthy meals, but these provisions expired on June 30, 2023. The creation of the 'Child & Adult Care Food Program Supplemental Fund' at the Oregon Department of Education would reinstate those key provisions and increase access to healthy and culturally

¹ <https://ourchildrenoregon.org/publications/oregon-kids-count/>

relevant food for children in childcare by increasing meal and snack reimbursements for providers participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

HB 3201 supports health and development and promotes healthy nutrition for young children, strengthens child care and helps to stabilize providers' income and services, and brings federal funds to Oregon, supporting local farmers and food processors.

We appreciate all the work you do to support Oregon's children and families and **we urge you to vote yes on HB 3201, The Child and Adult Care Food Program.**

Sincerely,

Our Children Oregon

Children's Institute

Baby Blues Connection

Black Parent Initiative

Housing Oregon

Latino Network

Next Up Action Fund

Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries

Oregon Association of Student Councils

Oregon Center for Public Policy

Oregon Environmental Council

Oregon Food Bank

Oregon Primary Care Association

Oregon School Nurses' Association

Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Prevent Child Abuse Oregon

Southern Oregon Success

Urban League of Portland

Vision To Learn
Washington County Kids

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