



March 7, 2025

Re: Testimony in Support of Continued Funding for the Child Care Infrastructure Fund

Dear Co-Chairs Sollman and Ruiz, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

On behalf of the Northwest Native Chamber (NWNC), I submit this testimony in strong support of continued funding for the Child Care Infrastructure Fund established under HB 3005 (2023). Investing in childcare infrastructure is essential to ensuring working families, entrepreneurs, and communities have access to high-quality, stable childcare options.

With support of DELC, NWNC provides technical assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs starting and sustaining childcare businesses. The program offers culturally relevant training, connects resources through a “hub and spoke” model, and supports businesses in accessing \$50 million in state childcare grants.

The initial \$50 million allocation has already begun addressing critical childcare shortages by funding new construction, renovations, and facility improvements—but the need remains significant. Many communities, particularly in tribal and rural areas, continue to lack adequate childcare facilities, limiting workforce participation and economic growth. Continued investment in this program is necessary to sustain and expand childcare services that support both parents and providers.

Additionally, ongoing technical assistance is critical to ensuring that eligible providers—especially those in underrepresented and tribal communities—can successfully access these funds. Many small childcare providers and community organizations need support navigating the application process, planning projects, and meeting compliance requirements. Without this assistance, funds may not reach those who need them most.

By ensuring long-term, dedicated funding and technical assistance, Oregon can create lasting childcare solutions that strengthen businesses, workforce development, and economic stability. We urge lawmakers to build on the foundation set by HB 3005 and commit to sustained investments in childcare infrastructure and support services.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to supporting Oregon families and businesses.

Sincerely,

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