

Submitter: Larry Williams  
On Behalf Of: Self  
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce  
Development  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3129

Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala and Harbick, Members of the Committee,

I encourage support for the investment of funds to promote education, training, and retention of behavioral health professionals. In terms of retention, I would suggest considering allocating some of the funds to the Department of Early Learning and Care to provide child care subsidies for students and apprentices in this occupation, as the Employment Related Day Care has a waitlist.

Another bill sponsored by Chair Hudson (HB 2593) calls for the Department of Early Learning and Care to “study the impact on student parents and working parents of the waitlist to participate in the Employment Related Day Care subsidy program established under ORS 329A.500.” In the interim, though, setting aside \$100,000 for child care subsidies for student parents, apprentice parents, and working parents in the behavioral health field would be a good step to helping make sure our investments in these education and training programs are as successful as possible.

Regards,

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