

Submitter: Anna Pickel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

Members of the Committee:

I'm writing to you today as a childcare provider who has provided healthy, home cooked, nutritious meals to children for the past 13 years I have done childcare. I do not feed children frozen or processed food and we make as many things from scratch as possible. Feeding children is very important and has been linked to many studies showing increased emotional, mental and academic stability. Children can't learn when they are hungry, at any age. I serve many children of color and low-income families who might be experiencing food insecurity at home. I take a lot of pride in providing these nutritious meals to children and giving their parents peace of mind to know their child is well fed at school, reducing another burden off their mind. With the rising cost of food, this is becoming a harder service to provide. I know families are feeling the pinch as well, but with childcare having to buy groceries in the same places, our wallets are further feeling the squeeze. Especially those who do not automatically qualify for the higher reimbursement rate from USDA. The children in their care shouldn't be penalized or have less access to food because that business owner has a heavier financial burden to provide those meals. We need all children in Oregon to have the same access to healthy meals and additional investment in USDA reimbursement rates would greatly help in accomplishing that. Please support the increase funding for this program. Thank you.

Anna Pickel
Happy Go Lucky Childcare, Owner/Director