



Representative Hòa Nguyễn  
Oregon House District 48

HB 3560 - Childcare Facility Siting

5/1 Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

I am State Representative Hòa Nguyễn, for House District 48, which includes outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County, two of the fastest growing areas in Oregon.

I'm the eldest daughter of four, born to Vietnamese refugee parents. I've spent the last two decades working in education as a school board member and currently as a Student and Community Engagement Specialist at the Clackamas Education Service District. I also hold a degree in sociology from Portland State University.

From my work in schools and with families, I hear a consistent message: child care is out of reach, too expensive, too scarce, or too far away from where people live and work. Parents are being forced to make impossible decisions, leaving the workforce, cutting back hours, or relying on informal care that isn't always reliable or safe. In some cases, older children are missing school because their younger siblings don't have a child care placement, and parents have no other option but to keep them all home.

We don't have a shortage of working parents. We have a shortage of accessible child care.

All 36 counties in Oregon are experiencing what experts call a child care desert. In some areas, there are as many as 10 children competing for every one available child care slot. And when care is available, it's often too costly. Infant care in Oregon averages nearly \$15,000 a year, which is more than the cost of in-state college tuition.

The result? Families are stretched thin, and employers are losing valuable workers. A report from Oregon Business & Industry estimates the lack of child care costs our state economy \$1.7 billion annually due to missed work and reduced productivity.

House Bill 3560 addresses one of the most practical and fixable barriers: zoning restrictions that limit where child care centers can open. Right now, land use rules often prevent child care providers from locating in residential or commercial zones, even when there's strong demand and available space.

HB 3560 updates state law to allow child care facilities in more areas, including near schools, parks, churches, and other community institutions. It makes it easier for providers to open where families already live, work, and gather.

This is a common-sense solution that strengthens families, supports our workforce, and gives children the early learning opportunities they need to thrive. As someone who has worked with families for over 20 years, I can tell you this: when you strengthen child care, you strengthen the entire community.

I urge your support for House Bill 3560. Let's give Oregon families the options they need to succeed.

Thank you.