

Dear Sam Koopman,

Thank you for your preliminary recommendations on how to support Oregonians during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Childcare is a basic human need and is required for workforce participation and access to critical services, including healthcare and education. While our modern workforce is gender diverse, childcare – both paid and unpaid – remains a labor carried out primarily by women.

As an Oregonian, I support the demands of the Oregon Childcare Project, a coalition of culturally-specific organizations leading the call for public childcare in Oregon.

The following immediate measures are necessary to relieve Oregon's mothers, parents, childcare providers, Black, Indigenous, and other constituencies of color:

1. Make language accessibility a priority for all emergency efforts.
2. Grant emergency child care assistance to all parents and caregivers required to work during the COVID-19 outbreak.
3. Maintain the availability of child care. When childcare providers are small business owners, we must protect their sustainability—and create additional capacity—when their services are most needed. Though child care centers must close now to all but Essential Employees, the following economic supports are needed to ensure the availability of critical child care services at scale once this crisis resolves.
4. Expand upon the federal protections for paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave to people who work in businesses of over 500 employees. This should include:

With the shut down of places of business, schools, child care centers and mass layoffs, mothers – and, consequently, their children – are indeed experiencing extraordinary distress brought on by COVID-19.

I encourage you to adopt the full demands of the Oregon Childcare Project (www.childcarefororegon.org), which was emailed on March 20, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Khanh Pham
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