

## AFSCME Council 75 Supports SB 47, the extension of the Working Families Child Care Tax Credit

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee,

My name is Eva Rippeteau, I am a political coordinator with AFSCME Council 75. AFSCME represents licensed in home child care providers, also known as Family Child Care. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 47. AFSCME supports extending the sunset of the Working Families Child Care Tax.

As you have likely heard and likely will continue to hear, Child Care in Oregon is difficult to afford and as we look at ways to continue the professional development of our child care providers and quality of the settings for our children, affordability and access are going to be a bigger part of the discussion. Extending the Working Families Child Care Tax Credit is one way to help families most in need of assistance access quality child care that works for their needs. With the wait list for Employment Related Day Care this tax credit is even more important for families in need, because when you are trying to make ends meet, every little bit helps. While I know SB 47 is limited to extending the sunset on the tax credit, I would like to encourage you to also look into expanding access to the tax credit to families at or even above 250% of the Federally Poverty Level.

I hear from providers regularly about how they have received a call from a parent excited about receiving a job offer and they are looking for child care. When the discussion comes to rates, the parent is often devastated to learn that care, even in more affordable settings could cost them almost half of their monthly income. Having access to a program whether a tax credit or a subsidy or both gives working parents the hand up they need to become financially stable.

I want to be clear that the cost of care is not because child care providers are getting rich. Many could and do qualify for the tax credits and programs that you are discussing in this session. As you have heard, child care center employees make an average of \$10.33- \$14.96 an hour. We don't know the exact wages for in home providers, but can say with certainty that the average wage is lower than the centers' employees.

Investing in child care is a hand up for more than one person, it creates a multi-level impact – The Child who gets quality care, The Parent who gets stable care for their child so they can work and The Provider who is able to support her or himself, their families and their small business. I urge your support of both HB 2091 the increase of the Working Families Child Care Tax Credit and HB 2115 extending the sunset of the tax credit.

Thank you.

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