

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the Human Services and Housing Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story. My name is Shelby Shaw; I am a Certified Family Child Care provider and employer of 3 in Roseburg, two of whom are former Jobs Plus employees. My child care program has a 4 star rating in the Quality Rating and Improvement System. I am a proud member of AFSCME, Local 132 Oregon Child Care Providers Together and a member of their executive board. I am active in the child care community, where I participate in meeting like my local learning hub and state wide professional organizations for those in the Early childhood field. My business and personally, I contribute to many charities that support those who would be served by the passing of HB 2015.

I feel blessed to have defied the odds and broken the chain of generational poverty that many families suffer from. As a teenager, I became a single mom. Things could have been much different for me if I had not been able to get public assistance through what was then the state needs block grant while I was a student. That assistance allowed me access to quality child care on the U of O campus for my child while I was in school. The cost would have been too much for me as a single parent. The child care allowance allowed me to give my child a quality experience for \$25/month rather than some less quality program for a rate much higher amount that I would have struggled to afford. This co-pay was a reasonable amount and allowed me to devote my time to parenting and being a student.

I graduated from U of O in 2002 and my daughter who is now 18 will be a freshman there in the fall. She has done well and I am so excited that we will be able to afford her school through the combination of scholarships, financial aid and income from my business. The assistance I received gave us both the opportunity for success. I am happy that I not only support my family but also support to the system that helped us.

While the assistance that I received was a different program than Employment Related Day Care, we are an example of how these programs work. There are so many parents out there that are working as self-employed or are students that just need that hand up. The simple fact that they are engaging in activities that better themselves demonstrates that they do not want to rest on their laurels. They are not content. They want more. These are the sort of people who deserve the help. They will later provide a return on investment when their businesses are more successful and they create jobs or become wage earners who no longer receive assistance and start paying taxes.

I encourage you to support HB 2015. This bill makes smart investments of our public assistance dollars through the Employment Related Day Care program. As a tax payer I would much rather support those trying to become better. As a former recipient of assistance through the state needs block grant, I know it works.