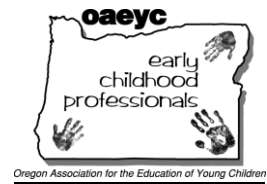


OREGON ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

An affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children

5427 Glen Echo Ave Ste A, Gladstone, OR 97027



February 9, 2015

Representative Keny-Guyer, Chair and Members of the Committee
House Human Services and Housing Committee

Regarding: HB 2015

Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (OAEYC) is a statewide organization with over 900 members who work with children from birth through age 8 and their families in a variety of settings including child care centers, family child care, Head Start, part day preschools, kindergarten and primary classrooms as well as college and university early childhood programs. We are committed to both the well-being of young children and the on-going professional development of our members.

OAEYC supports HB 2015 for the expansion and enhancement of the Employment Related Day Care Program. ERDC provides critical support to low-income, working families so that they can have the dignity of work to support their families. ERDC provides basic safety standards for all programs and for licensed care additional standards and training requirements. Parents chose the type of child care for several reasons based on their work hours, cultural values, the ability of the program to serve all their child care needs, and access to transportation as well as the out-of-pocket cost (co-pay). By allowing the parent to have a lower co-pay for higher quality programs, it provides a further option for our lowest income families. By allowing for an enhanced reimbursement rate for the higher tiered programs, you would help to provide funds to maintain that higher quality of care.

The extension of one-year eligibility will create stability for the child, the parent and the child care provider. It will also free DHS staff from some of the frequent re-determination work, so that they can provide more help with initial eligibility and maintaining stability for families. It will also help child care providers and child care centers plan for consistency in enrollment and income.

I thank you for your consideration of HB 2015.

Sincerely,

Merrily Haas
Executive Director

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OregonAEYC advocates for high quality care and education for every young child and strives to meet the professional needs and interests of the diverse early childhood community. Our vision is to build and maintain a strong, diverse, and inclusive organization that enables OAEYC to achieve our mission on behalf of children, families, and professionals in early childhood education.