



Partners *for a*
Hunger-Free Oregon

Ending hunger before it begins.

To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Matt Newell-Ching, Public Affairs Director, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Subject: Support Improvements to Child Care Tax Credits (HB 2115 and 2116)

Date: April 15, 2015

All children deserve a safe place to learn, grow, and thrive while their parents are at work. When working Oregonians have access to quality, affordable child care, everyone is better off.

Yet for too many families, the lack of access to quality, affordable child care is a significant barrier to work. Research consistently shows that childcare in Oregon is among the most expensive in the nation relative to household income.

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon supports the package of tax credit improvements that simplifies and strengthens support for working families that need child care (HB 2115 and 2116). These improvements streamline a patchwork of credits in a way that particularly supports families below the poverty line that are seeking a pathway to the middle class. It also addresses significant “benefit cliff” issues that currently exist, and will transition Oregon to a more equitable set of supports.

To be clear, this set of changes will not provide access to child care to every working family that needs it - much more robust investments would be required to achieve that. It is, however, a very forward-thinking approach, a wise use of existing resources, and a good first step toward making access to child care a reality for Oregon’s working families.

These measures deserve our support.