

AFSCME Urges Your Support of HB 2116 and HB 2113/SB 212

Dear Co-chairs Hass and Barnhart and members of the committee,

My name is Eva Rippeteau. I am a political coordinator for AFSCME Council 75. We represent licensed in-home child care providers in the state. Thank you, for the opportunity to testify on HB 2116, and HB 2113/SB 212

AFSCME asks for your support on HB 2116, the Working Family Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. We have all heard how Oregon some of the most unaffordable child care in the nation. HB 2116 helps make child care more affordable for families up to 290% of Federal Poverty Level. I appreciate the work that Rep Keny-Guyer, her staff, Chris Allanach and all who participated in the workgroup to discuss these tax credits. I especially am grateful for the consideration that was given in making sure that families with older children were kept in the program. For some families, the cost of care doesn't go down significantly when their children enter school because their work hours don't match their child's school hours. Some parents take their children early in the morning where they go back to sleep before getting up for breakfast and are taken to school by their child care provider. Some parents work second shift and their children go to care after school where their provider helps them with their homework, feeds them dinner and puts them to bed for a few hours before their parent picks them up. I have included with my testimony, stories from two children who are in child care who fit this example.

AFSCME also urges your support for HB 2113/SB 212, the extension and expansion of the tax credits for donations made to the Office of Child Care. These donations are used for direct payments to child care providers and their employees who meet certain milestones in the professional development through the *Oregon Registry Online or the Quality Rating and Improvement System. As providers work to achieve higher ratings through QRIS, the requirements for training that they have increases as do the requirements of their employees and incentives like these are a key piece in helping offset the costs of these achievements. The direct payments that providers receive can be used for anything and often times are put right back into making business improvements, such as buying new playground equipment, or even covering the costs of having a substitute while they are taking more trainings. As more providers move up on the Registry (there are 12 steps) and achieve hiring ratings on QRIS (there are 5 stars) there will be a greater demand for this incentive.

Thank you, again for your time. I welcome any questions.

The Oregon Registry Online is professional development tool that is run by Portland State University through the Oregon Career Development in Childhood Care and Education:

<https://my.oregonregistryonline.org/>

The Quality Rating and Improvement System is a star rating system for early learning and child care providers that sets standards for quality in child care.

<http://teachingresearchinstitute.org/projects/qrisk/about>

Thank you for talking with me today and for your work on helping families afford childcare.

My name is Alicia [REDACTED] I am 12 years old I have been coming to Crayola Kids Child Care since I was 6 weeks old. My mom works at Lowe's her schedule changes every week she can work as early as 6 in the morning or as late as 11 at night my school starts at 8:00 in the morning and gets out at 2:15 pm some days I have Sun School and some days I have sports. When my mom is still working Ms. Renee picks me up. She helps me with homework feeds me dinner and sometimes puts me to bed. When we have days off from school or summer vacation I am with Ms. Renee all day. Last October when I turned 12 the state stopped helping with my childcare the state thinks I am old enough to stay home by myself both my mom and Ms. Renee know that is not safe for me

now my mom is having to pay all the childcare herself. my mom has taken me to the doctors and the the counselor, she has filled out all of the paperwork the state has asked her to but they have not approved. my childcare we are still waiting.

being able to go to ms. Renee's house is important to me. we go on field trips, make crafts, and play with my friends. she teaches me respect and how to be a good person. when I am at ms. Renee house I know I am safe.

Thank you for talking with me today and for your work on helping families afford childcare.

My name is DeAndre Cary. I am 9 years old. My mom works goes to school. Sometimes she is done by 6:30 pm but other days she is not done until midnight. Ms. Renee takes care of me and my little brother Devonte. We have been coming to Crayala Kids childcare for 4 years. Ms. Renee picks ^{both of us} ~~my brother~~ up from school. She makes us dinner, helps us with our homework and puts us to bed.

During school breaks I am with Ms. Renee all day. She does a lot of things with us. We go on field trips and have a lot of fun. She has taken me places that I know my mom does not have the money to go. We even go to the beach. She celebrates our birthday and encourages us to try new things. Ms. Renee is important to me. She listens to me. We talk about every thing. I am glad Ms. Renee

is able to take care of me and my brother while my mom is working and going to school.