

## **Please Support Senate Bill 470**

Dear Business and Transportation Committee,

I fully support Senate Bill 470 and am writing you today asking that you would too. Children, parents, and communities all benefit from child care homes - and many of these benefits are simply unattainable in a child care facility setting. Senate Bill 470 will increase the availability of quality child care by protecting the rights of in-home care providers. Three of the greatest strengths of child care homes are their ability to offer more focused development to children, support working parents, and boost the economy. After being raised by two working parents and placed in child care homes as a youth, I truly understand and appreciate the benefits.

The amount of focused attention my children get at daycare is of utmost importance to me. I want to know they are paid attention to, taught well, cared for, and loved on. This is why we have chosen to have our kids cared for in a child care home. It offers a home-like, nurturing atmosphere where my children can grow and develop together - facilities typically separate them by age and siblings are often in different "classes" - and simulates an environment of being raised by parents. Children thrive in these familiar, comfortable surroundings where there are fewer kids and more focused attention. Not to mention, they're eating home-cooked meals and exposed to fewer germs! There is a lot of evidence to support the fact that children develop better in child care homes than large daycare facilities and Senate Bill 470 will allow more kids to reap these benefits. It will expand the reach of Oregon's early childhood development programs including children with special needs, enable the deployment of the SPARK/QRIS program, and create more opportunities for child care homes to be developed and available to parents in our communities.

My husband and I both work, and thus depend greatly on the quality, affordable care my children get at their child care home. I know many working parents that have struggled to find in-home care for their children because there is currently such a high demand for that type of care. It's simple, Oregon needs more child care homes. It's because of these homes that many parents are able to keep their jobs and provide for their families.

Not only do child care homes benefit the families in our communities, but they also benefit the economy. They create jobs, support small businesses (many times owned by women), and enable parents to work. There is currently a shortage of child care homes in Oregon affecting working parents and special needs children - think of the potential boost in the economy we could see if there were enough child care homes to meet the needs! Senate Bill 470 will enable and encourage experienced child care professionals to develop child care homes within their residence with the confidence that their right to act legally in the privacy of their own home is protected. HOAs are becoming more and more popular, with most new neighborhood developments acting under them, making Senate Bill 470 even more critical. I have lived in communities where HOAs are present and have not experienced any detriment to the community, rather they're a benefit making childcare locally accessible. In addition to projecting local rights, there needs to be state-wide oversight and consistency so people know what to expect as they move around the state.

The foundation of child care homes is relationships. Relationships between parents and providers, providers and the children and the children with each other. Please join me in protecting these relationships by protecting the rights of child care homes through Senate Bill 470.

Sincerely,

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