



April 3, 2017

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair
Members of the Senate Workforce Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Taylor and Senators,

Children First for Oregon is the primary source for data on the wellbeing of Oregon's 860,000 kids. Our program, United for Kids, works with partners like UFCW Local 555 to make Oregon the best place to be a kid. We collaborate with stakeholders from across the state to advance policies and programs that protect and promote the economic security, education, health and safety of all children in Oregon.

There are 640,000 parents of children under 18 in the state's workforce and 65.1 percent of Oregon mothers of children under age six that work as well.¹ Kids thrive on consistency, yet low-income workers typically face the most unpredictable schedules.² These unpredictable schedules add a financial burden to Oregon families already having difficulty making ends meet. 26 percent of irregular/on-call workers report frequent work-family conflicts such as having to reschedule appointments and find last minute child care.³ From 2008 to 2015, the cost of child care in Oregon jumped by 17.5 percent. The picture is even bleaker for parents looking for infant care. For some working families, paying for center-based child care for an infant requires upwards of 40 percent of their income.⁴ These costs are untenable, especially for parents struggling to make ends meet. Working parents need predictable working hours if we want to reduce Oregon's 20.3 percent child poverty rate.

We ask you to support SB 828 and ensure that all of Oregon's hard working parents can plan ahead in a cost-effective manner that saves them money and preserves the time they spend with their children. Thank you for your work on behalf of Oregon's kids.

Tonia Hunt
Executive Director

¹ Jessica Nelson, "For Oregon Parents, Working is the Norm," State of Oregon Employment Department, 2015, available at: <https://www.qualityinfo.org/-/for-oregon-parents-working-is-the-norm>

² Lonnie Golden, "Irregular Work Scheduling and its Consequences," Economic Policy Institute, 2015, available at: <http://www.epi.org/publication/irregular-work-scheduling-and-its-consequences/>

³ Lonnie Golden, "Irregular Work Scheduling and its Consequences," Economic Policy Institute, 2015, available at: <http://www.epi.org/publication/irregular-work-scheduling-and-its-consequences/>

⁴ Children First for Oregon, "2016 County Data Book," Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016, available at: <http://www.cffo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2016-County-Data-Book.pdf>