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February 7, 2018

Oregon House Early Childhood and Family Supports Committee
Salem, OR

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Bonham and Piluso, Representatives Boles, Bynum, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Malstrom and Brock Smith:

We are writing to you as members of ReadyNation Oregon, an organization of over 40 business leaders across the state, to **support the legislative changes proposed in HB 4065** regarding child care.

High-quality, affordable child care supports a productive workforce, both now and into the future. Nearly two-thirds of Oregon's children (169,000 children under the age of six) have all available parents participating in the workforce. This means that the majority of our youngest assets are being cared for outside the home by non-relatives in a variety of settings that vary greatly when it comes to quality and safety. The bar on quality and safety can never be too high, especially if you want to see results that translate to academic and career success later in life.

We know that in the first few years of life, more than one million new neural connections form every second. This early foundation informs children's cognition, health, and behavior throughout life, impacting our future potential workforce and our ability to succeed in the global marketplace. Thus, it is essential that child care consist of responsive, quality environments that nurture early brain development. In order to ensure a high level of quality and safety in child care settings, we support the following legislative changes proposed by HB 4065:

- Allow the Office of Child Care (OCC) to take action regarding expired licenses, providers with significant licensing violations, impose conditions on licenses, cease and desist orders, civil penalties against illegal care, and increase civil penalties under current law.
- Create a consistent standard for licensing across all types of care.
- Increase licensing staff to lower caseloads and to continue increasing the number of unannounced visits to child care providers.
- Facilitate collaboration between the OCC and the Department of Human Services (DHS) through an interagency agreement that allows data sharing, joint investigations of abuse or neglect, and grants the OCC investigative authority.

Quality child care not only impacts the potential of our future workforce, but also the productivity of Oregon's current workforce. Research demonstrates that women who have access to child

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care subsidies reap many employment-related benefits: They are more likely to work, are able to work more hours, have more stable employment, and earn more. This results in a strong

return on investment from a boost in sales of local goods and services. For every dollar invested in child care, Oregon's state and local economies receive a return of \$1.91.

As business leaders of ReadyNation Oregon, we urge you to support HB 4065 to increase families' access to affordable, safe and high-quality child care. The yield will be a more productive workforce, both now and into the future.

Sincerely,



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Burn



Jan Cullivan
Broker
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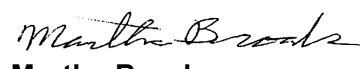
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CC: Senate President Peter Courtney, House Speaker Tina Kotek, Oregon Legislature
Governor Kate Brown, Oregon
Miriam Calderon, Oregon Early Learning Director

Attachment: ReadyNation Oregon Early Childhood Care Report