

To: The Oregon State Child Care Task Force
From: Anita Sawaneh
Re: Impacts of COVID-19 on child care in Oregon

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Taylor and Representative Power,

My name is Anita Sawaneh and I live in Milwaukie. I own a registered family child care center that I run out of my own home. I'm licensed for ten. I have two children of my own, Paschal 6, and Eudora, 3, so they take up two of my spots. I am due with a third child in August.

Aside from the daily fear I experience from being a pregnant child care provider during a pandemic, I am stressed about the economic impacts on my business from COVID as well. These two things weigh heavily on my mind at all times.

Covid impacts have been bad for me business-wise. And not just me- Many other local child care providers have been impacted as well. A lot of people have called me from other businesses who are closing that want to sell me toys. They are closing b/c it is high-risk or too expensive.

It is very expensive for me to run my business. I am not getting paid by DHS until the end of the month but I have expenses during the month that I can't meet. I am taking money from my personal account to pay for food. My husband's money is subsidising my biz. He is serving in the military across the county and has told me that he doesn't think it is worth it to keep my business going because it is losing money.

I spend \$1200/ for food because I'm not willing to compromise on organic food because I'm feeding my children as well. The USDA food program that I was on got discontinued when I was having morning sickness early in my pregnancy because I forgot to tell my certifier that I wasn't taking clients because of my illness. I was sick a lot early in my pregnancy and in and out of the hospital. My certifier said that too much time had passed since I was supposed to tell her and it was too late to give her the doctors notes that I had- I was supposed to give it to her back then. And that I would now be on probation for the USDA program for 7 years.

I have two parents who still haven't paid me for last month. I also just got a bill from the IRS for \$4000 and I have no idea why.

I'm frustrated that I didn't get the first round of grants because I was closed. The people who applied for the first round of grants haven't even got their money yet. I've applied for the second round of grant funding but the zoom call I went to yesterday said that we wouldn't see the money until Aug. How am I supposed to survive until August? I am underwater. I am exhausted and stressed out and really just feel like closing my business.

But the saddest part about this is the students who I have lost who were very bonded to me. I have one little girl who has been coming to my program since she was 2 months old and now is two. She misses me. Me having to close is bad for the children I serve.

Sincerely,
Anita Sawaneh

I am a blessing 🙏