

June 30th, 2020

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

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Taylor and Representative Power,

My name is Tia Dunham and I live in Happy Valley. I am a single parent of 3 children that sometimes has to rely on my teenage children to assist me with my youngest.

My preschool age child is currently still in daycare because I am an essential worker working in the funeral industry.

However, the daycare was forced to reduce hours and as a result, I have had to reduce my hours at work- this is despite the need for me to actually work overtime.

One benefit that has happened is the co-pay for my ERDC has been waived. This has benefited me because I was already struggling to pay my high rent prices and other bills while juggling with losing all other assistance because of the overtime I was working pre covid that placed me above the threshold of being eligible.

Prior to COVID the co-pay was partially paid for by the [Community Child Care Initiative]. My childcare provider who has been in business for over 20 years in the Portland area told me about this program. Had she not been in the know, I would have been paying nearly \$700 for just my co pay, which I can not afford.

Free public school preschool was only half days so I am forced to rely on private daycare to meet my childcare needs.

If it was not for ERDC help, my teenage children would be forced to help with the majority of childcare while I worked in helping the community during these difficult times.

Sincerely,
Tia Dunham

Sincerely,

FIRST AND LAST NAME