

June 30th, 2020

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

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Taylor and Representative Power,

My name is Nilmini Hoyt and I live in Beaverton, OR. I own two Certified Family child care locations which is certified for 16 children for each location. Little Explorer Montessori on 4970, SW 185th Avenue, Beaverton, and Little Explorer Nursery in 4425, SW 194th Ct., Aloha, OR. Before COVID-19, I had 30 children enrolled with 10 employees. Now I have only one location opened with 6 children and 4 part time employees.

This COVID situation affected my business so much and my income went down by 80% where I now have only 6 children and 4 employees who work part-time. Basically all of them are taking a pay cut. For all the 6 children, if I have only 1 teacher, that will be more than enough to cover the ratio. However, with the new rules that we have, I have to have 2 employees to keep up with all the cleaning procedures in place. By the time I earn money from 6 children and pay my employees, I do not have any money left for me to pay myself or to pay 2 mortgages that I have. Utility payments and all the other expenses come on top of that. As a single mother with two children and not much help for their expenses from their father, I am struggling to make the ends meet.

When all the customers stopped coming and not paying due to their staying home/job loss, I tried to claim unemployment. However, it took so long for me to hear any reply and I had to cut a paycheck from my own money which effected me and they didn't approve my claim. A few weeks later I received the PPP loan which effected me applying for Unemployment as well.

At this moment I am not sure when I am able to get all the other employees and some of the previous employees who are no longer working for me also claiming unemployment. So far I have received almost 8 claims where the Employment Department is trying to put the claim on to my business even though these employees voluntarily quit or stopped working for more than a year ago.

As a provider who is required to keep with all the sanitation requirements, I have to face with not many PPE supplies. They sell gloves for \$20 a small box where I used to pay \$45 for a whole case.

The Early Learning Division promised to give us a grant which was supposed to be \$5,000 per location. Since I closed one of the locations, I couldn't apply for the first round of payments. I am thankful that at least they are giving us a grant. However, I wish Oregon takes care of us, Childcare Providers since we are the reason others can go to work peacefully.

Sincerely,

FIRST AND LAST NAME