

February 20th, 2019

To: The House Housing and Human Services Committee

From: Hilda Martinez,

Re: Support of HB 2346, HB 2348, and HB 2024

Dear Chair Keny Guyer,

My name is Hilda Martinez and I live in NE Salem.

I was a teacher in my country and because of various situations in life I was faced with the need to immigrate to this country. I was fortunate to have a legal way of doing so and so I did. Since I arrived in this country it has become very difficult for me to provide child care for my two children. I move to Salem without having the family support system I once had in my home country. I was all alone in a city with not a single family member to support me while I established myself in this country.

Starting with a minimum wage salary that was not enough to cover all my expenses and not having any other additional resources, I was forced to seek other types of aid. Like asking for favors from friends, or neighbors while searching for other jobs that would allow me to have a decent salary to cover our basic needs. As a single mother of two boys all of these hardships have brought me many worries that I have had to solve and deal with by myself day in and day out to get my children ahead in life. While I have done this by myself I know I am not alone in these hardships and this is a struggle many families face.

We need to make child care more accessible and provide peace of mind and stability for all families. Mothers like me need a system that can help support the values and dreams we have for our children. The little people that we are raising to be the next generation in this society. Without the support for our government, children are growing up with the stress and uncertainty that hinders their growth and development. As a teacher and a mother I know that investing in our children has endless value. Please help children in our state get ahead by providing them the basic resources that set them up for success such as affordable quality childcare.

Sincerely,

Hilda Martinez