



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OR 97301

May 2nd, 2019

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

I would like to offer support for HB 3394 A, that offers a technical fix to the services that Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) entities must provide. CCR&Rs are responsible for:

- Training and technical assistance for existing and potential child care providers
- Referrals for parents or guardians seeking child care providers
- Recruitment of qualified individuals to meet the child care needs of a community

This bill clarifies that Resource & Referral entities must provide at least one of these services, not all of them. This is consistent with how CCR&Rs are intended to function, with multiple partners working together in different aspects to better serve child care providers across the state.

Additionally, this bill responds to feedback from the CCR&Rs by allowing the match requirement to be defined by the Early Learning Council in rule. Statute currently requires a fixed match on public funds flowing to Resource and Referral entities. This poses challenges for a number of reasons:

1. Because the statute requires a match for any public funds, this makes it challenging for Resource and Referral entities to receive funds when new grant opportunities arise or when it makes sense for a CCR&R to play an intermediary role.
2. The match has been particularly challenging for rural communities with the least resources. This makes it difficult to direct additional public resources to some of the communities that need it the most.
3. The statute refers to different organizations that play different kinds of roles in relationship as part of a broader "Child Care Resource and Referral system." In addition to the regional "Child Care Resource & Referral entities," it also encompasses the funds allocated to 211 for child care referrals, to Portland State University to run the Oregon Registry Online, etc. Given the diversity of organizations and types of functions, the flat match requirement does not work.

HB 3394 A will allow the Early Learning Council to redefine this match requirement in rule to better accommodate the needs of CCR&Rs. I ask for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer

