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From the desk of
Rep. Jason Kropf



**Child Care
for Oregon**

Child Care That Works. For Every Family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Jason Kropf.

Parents & Providers Across Oregon Urge Support for HB 3073B

Every Oregon family deserves access to high quality, affordable, and culturally relevant child care, and every child care provider should be paid a wage that reflects the essential work they do. As COVID-19 has revealed, our entire economy is dependent on a child care system that works—and as many parents and providers can tell you, Oregon's child care system desperately needs to be rebuilt.

"When we moved to Bend in 2017, we relocated for my job. At the time, we had two school-aged children and one under two years of age. We thought my husband would initially stay home just until he found a job, but we soon realized that the cost of child care - both for our youngest and after-school care for our older two - would almost equal the amount of his paycheck at the time. ...Families need access to affordable quality child care so they can be financially secure and thrive. Please take these first steps to address our child care crisis in Oregon and pass House Bills 3073 and 2503."

- **Rebecca Ellis, Bend**

"I have been doing in-home child care for almost 28 years. I was also a parent in the ERDC program in the early 1990's. I have traveled both sides of this road and I can honestly say the current system is outdated and needs an overhaul. Streamlining programs to co-exist within each other's space will not only be beneficial to children, but to their parents, and also to providers."

- **Diana Adams, Milwaukie**

"My husband and I struggled with finding affordable child care with our last child. We have two older children and therefore many other expenses to cover and consider. I needed to go back to work because we could not afford for me to continue to stay at home. We found ourselves in a difficult situation as we earned more than what low income programs like Head Start allows you to earn to be eligible for services, but not enough to make the cost of quality child care something that we could cover even with two incomes."

- **Rebecca Velazquez, Salem**

"I am a working single mom with a special needs 7 year old. Even before Covid but especially now with covid, it has been grueling trying to navigate. Trying to homeschool and work has been so hard and horrible and painful that I'm not sure me and my child are going to fully recuperate from how nightmarish this has been. I can't afford child care at all so I have to leave my kid alone in front of a screen to see clients or hand her off to a willing friend or family member which is very sparse."

- **Rebecca Bloom, Portland**

"I had to leave my job in 2017 after my second child was born because my paycheck would not cover the cost of having them in child care. When my oldest reached preschool age in 2018, I was hoping to put my youngest in daycare and work part time, but we did not qualify for free preschool. So, I've been stuck at home with both kids not able to work due to the lack of affordable childcare options."

- **Ariana Brooks, Keizer**

"In my experience working with families using the ERDC program, I have seen where families have had to choose between working full time versus part time or taking a pay increase for promotions in fear of losing their copays or having them increased or cut off altogether. Often with the extremely high copays and understanding the burden that puts upon families, I have often taken the hit on pay by allowing parents to either pay a small portion of their copay or none at all. I am also affected when parents choose to drop to part time hours versus the full time to be able to hold on to benefits because the pay increase is just now enough to cover the loss of ERDC, Snap or other benefits. This upon other reasons is why I support the passing of this bill."

- **Zakkiyya Ibrahim, Tigard**

"The current system is not serving our current communities' needs. For families like mine, the hoops and hurdles we have to undertake in order to be able to go to work and provide for our family's very basic needs has been so strenuous and stressful. I have often found myself considering not going back to work. However when I look at our financial situation it is just not an option and I feel desperate and frustrated to the point of bursting into tears from it all."

- **Luz Quevedo, Salem**

Child care as necessary for joyful children, thriving families, and a strong economy. House Bill 3073B moves us closer to this vision for all Oregonians. **We urge your support of HB 3073B.**