

Name: Jennifer Cho Kain, Congressional District 1

Date: April 15th, 2021

Re: Childcare funding

Attn: Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield; Vice Co-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith; and members of Oregon's Joint Committee on Ways & Means

I am writing to you today in response to your calls for equity-based policies. As members of Oregon's Ways & Means Committee, I am calling on you to invest in childcare and support HB 3073. As a member of the API community, my own family was affected by the lack of access to affordable childcare. Like many families, our family had to care for younger siblings while parents worked long hours in businesses that did not provide for or had access to quality childcare.

I believe that Oregon's economic recovery should help those who were hurt most by COVID-19 and our corresponding recession: primarily Oregonians who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color, women; immigrants; and/or LGBTQ+. Investments that are rooted in racial, gender, and economic justice are what this moment calls for. Now is not the time for Oregon to save money or cut budgets on these key much needed services.

This bill will help provide some immediate relief for families and providers impacted by COVID-19 and begin to address the major problems with our state's child care assistance program, like the ERDC.

Economists agree: stimulus packages work best when money is quickly moved into the economy. Our last recession taught us that austerity measures only make economic recoveries longer and more painful. As you work to develop the final budget framework, impacted communities across Oregon have come together to urge you to prioritize federal funding from ARPA on *childcare*.

The way our state handles budgeting for the care of our children will affect the next generation forever. I urge you to pass HB 3073 to take a small step in securing the funding our child care system needs.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to give feedback.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Cho Kain