

April 21st, 2021

To: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
From: Allison Morrison  
Re: Funding for childcare

Dear Co-Chairs Betsy Johnson, Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, and Dan Rayfield,

My name is Allison Morrison and I live in Portland, OR.

I am an owner of childcare centers in NE Portland serving 200 some children. Despite the challenges of the year with an extended closure, efforts of reopening, and the significant drop in enrollment, this is the year we are serving the largest percentage of tuition waiver families.

While we have completed the process to be an ERDC provider, we have not successfully navigated the system alongside families who also find it cumbersome. Additionally, those we serve without cost do not readily meet the qualifications. Instead, we enroll those in need without charge which at the preschool rate of about \$1300 amounts to about \$15,600 per family that we do not collect. With this we request families make a commitment to enrollment as these are schedules that could be readily filled by others in need. What we do not have is administrative time to devote to navigating a system and completing paperwork, particularly in this time of COVID where demands have jumped.

Reforming this system will make accessing childcare more achievable and we will see the returns in karma and community. I ask that you protect current investments in the ERDC program and support HB 3073 to make the necessary childcare reforms in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Allison Morton, Small Wonders School