

April 21, 2021

To: Joint Committee on Ways & Means
From: First Last Name, City or County
Re: Child Care Funding and HB 3073

Tri-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joan Morgan and I live in Happy Valley, Oregon. This past year has changed so much for so many. I've gone from a working mother of two who could get by to a struggling healthcare hero. I've worked at OHSU the past eleven years and last spring shortly after the start of the pandemic we were told that there was a budget shortfall and we needed to prepare for a salary reduction. My pay was cut by 18%--this was not a small insignificant amount. My husband and I sat at the kitchen table and discussed what cuts we would have to make as a family to get by. We tightened the budget and buckled down like so many Oregonian's.

Then the bomb dropped. Our childcare center sent a letter home notifying us of a 10% tuition increase. We were now facing \$2,000 per month for childcare. \$24,000 PER YEAR. How on earth could we make this work? The short answer was - we couldn't. We switched shifts, parented on opposite schedules like ships passing in the night. There is no help for working families and I know that we can do better. Months later my salary was restored but the damage was done to our savings account. I'm now working 2 extra shifts per week to make up for the lost wages and childcare costs. I'm very fortunate to be able to pick up these shifts, I'm lucky to have had the flexibility to switch shifts (even though not ideal). My family has caught so many breaks throughout these struggles but what about the families that don't? We can and must do better for our children and our families. Please prioritize childcare funding this legislative session and support HB 3073.

Thank you,
Joan Morgan