

May 4, 2021

House Committee on Revenue 900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2440

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Reschke and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First for Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities.

## We are writing today in support of HB 2440 to extend the sunset on the Working Family Household and Dependent Care (WFHDC) tax credit until 2028.

We knew that the child care system didn't work for most families before the pandemic, but the pandemic has revealed that the current system does not meet the needs of children, parents, and providers, and will not support Oregon's economic recovery. As we work to transform our child care system through other policy bills and investments so that it actually works families and children, now is not the time to remove the supports from families provided through the existing WFHDC tax credit.

Child care is primarily funded by families that cannot afford the true costs associated with care for children, and the WFHDC is one tool to help families afford child care.

Thank you for your consideration and we urge your support of HB 2440.

From the Our Children Oregon Team, Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

## The Children's Agenda

is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.



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