

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen and members of the committee,

My name is Leslie Harrison. I am the owner, director, educator and child care provider for Littlefoot's Child Care LLC In Tangent, Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony in support of HB3109.

I am a licensed family child care provider and I am wife of an Oregon national guardsman and mother of 1.

Today I would like to share my story with you so that you may have my first hand account of what child care providers are facing today in Oregon and how passage of this bill could reduce our burden as child care providers to provide high quality care in the communities we live; a service we all know is so desperately needed in every community in Oregon.

Littlefoot's was established April 15th 2019. In 2020 during the COVID pandemic, we needed to sell our home and relocate, we moved our small family and business just outside of Albany, into the small town of Tangent. And we worked as quickly as possible to re-open my child care business.

During our relocation to Tangent we had been met with a less than warm welcome by the local city council, city manager and city planner. Harassment over fees and fines and zoning began immediately once they heard me say I am operating an in home child care; \$1400.00 *just* to begin a conversation, then the fees can go up from there. I was told it's the decision of the city's will how much they are going to charge.

The Mayor of Tangent instructed me to apply for a fee waiver, however, he made it clear that it's entirely up to the city council if they will allow me a waiver. I feel, Mayor Lowell basically set me up to fail.

I addressed the Tangent city council on a recorded zoom meeting to plead my case. I shared details about my program, the families I serve and asked if they would consider adding child care to the list of approved businesses for my "zone" (highway commercial and industrial).

The entire council voted against it. They gave me allowance to operate till January of 2022 at which point they stated I was to shut down or start paying up. They had *just* voted against approving my child care but still wanted me to pay them an unknown amount of money for them to just deny me again. When I told them about the social and emotional programs I offer and educational enrichment for kids and family, free car seat safety services I offer in our rural area, they were unimpressed. When I said I can serve our local working families at our mills and seed warehouses and our underserved families they scoffed at me

This bill will help reduce barriers local governments create unfairly that prevent child care providers from delivering our essential service. Thank you for listening to my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions.

Leslie Harrison

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