



February 14, 2021

Chair Power, Vice Chairs Reynolds and Zika, and Members of the Committee:

The Fair Shot For All Coalition strongly supports HB 2503 and 3073. This policy is part of our 2021 legislative agenda and part of our ongoing work to ensure that every family has the basics including childcare. Fair Shot for All is an economic justice coalition of grassroots organizations and labor unions working together to build power with our communities, to create opportunities for all working families to thrive, and to dismantle historic and systemic economic inequities for Oregonians who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color (BIPOC); women; immigrants; and/or LGBTQ+. Fair Shot's work centers racial and gender equity that seeks to address inequalities through organizing and concrete policy change.

Family comes first and Oregon families deserve a better system for caring for our children. As COVID-19 has revealed, our entire economy is dependent on a child care system that works—and as many parents and providers can tell you, Oregon's child care system desperately needs to be rebuilt.

Instead of trying to repair a clearly broken system, we should think big and reimagine what we want a new and better child care system to look like. By recognizing child care as necessary infrastructure, we can have joyful children, thriving families, and a strong economy.

It will take a long-term, sustained effort to rebuild a child care system that truly works for all our families. In the meantime, we can start with House Bills 3073 and 2503, which will streamline governance by housing our state's child care subsidy program, Employment Related Day Care (ERDC), with other early learning and child care programs. This realignment will allow for a more seamless coordination and coverage of services between ERDC and other programs like Preschool Promise and Early Head Start. It also allows the state to be strategic about purchasing child care to rebuild the sector after devastating losses during the pandemic.

Reforming ERDC will better serve low-income and BIPOC families, as well as providing fair compensation for the child care business owners and educators—predominantly women and BIPOC women—who perform this critical work.

We strongly encourage your YES vote on HB 2503 and 3073.

For more information about our coalition visit www.FairShotOregon.org