

Submitter: Dani Willingham

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood

Measure: HB4005

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4005. My name is Dani Willingham, I live in Clackamas county and I am the parent of a four year old. As a self-employed single mother with a disability, the need for reliable in-home childcare is paramount for me to have the means to provide for my child - especially through the pandemic as resources have been limited.

An increase in the availability of safe in-home childcare for parents and caregivers like myself would serve our entire community. This can be accomplished by passing House Bill 4005, which will incentivize new care programs by raising the amount of money child care providers get paid through the ERDC subsidy program. Our teachers and care providers are vastly under-paid and undervalued, and it's time that changed.

Similarly, we will begin to rebuild our drastically dwindled stock of in-home care providers by suspending the sprinkler system requirements through January 1, 2024. The up-front costs of these systems are extremely prohibitive to most prospective care providers during these times, and delaying these requirements will give our hard-hit communities time to recover in a post-pandemic world before considering a re-implementation.

By valuing and supporting our care providers, we also support parents, children, the work force, the economy, and beyond. Please consider passing this bill, for the highest good of our state and society.

Sincerely,

Dani Willingham