

Submitter: Maria Cortez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood  
Measure: HB4005

February 2, 2022

To: House Committee on Early Childhood  
From: Maria Cortes, Salem OR  
Re: Child Care and HB 4005  
Email: mariacortes@pcun.org

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 Maria, I live in Salem and I am a parent of 4.

I'm writing to support HB 4005 because I know that access to child care is necessary for joyful children, thriving families, and a strong economy. The pandemic has made clear that without care work, no other work can happen.

Other barriers that parents and providers face to accessing child care. There is a bigger barrier our farm workers and migrant families face. When they come they do not know of all the resources available to them or where to take them to make sure they are safe. With the pandemic we have seen these effects hit our communities harder, there are not spaces available for those who might have contracted covid and those who need to isolate.

Our state cannot afford to not invest in child care, especially in the midst of an ongoing pandemic. Providers should be properly compensated for their work, and families should have access to high-quality, affordable, and culturally relevant childcare. Please invest in child care and support HB 4005.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maria Cortes