

Submitter: Nyla Moore
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood
Measure: HB4005

February 2, 2022

To: House Committee on Early Childhood
From: Nyla Moore, Portland, Multnomah County
Re: Child Care and HB 4005
Email: nylakmoore@gmail.com

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 Nyla Moore, I live in Portland and I am a parent of two daughters.

Before the pandemic, my oldest daughter went to school, and we paid a fee for before and after-school care. My youngest daughter was cared for by family members at no cost.

Our support system changed due to an uncertain economy caused by the pandemic. We had to unenroll my oldest and adjust our budget because we could no longer afford to send my child to a daycare center. Juggling full-time work and watching the children all day has been a significant adjustment for my partner and me. I now double as a full-time caretaker and professional while supporting my eldest daughter, who attends Portland Public Schools. My workday is often interrupted due to a lack of afterschool care.

Oregon's Black families and we deserve better than our current childcare options. I want to find full-time care for my toddler, but the average cost of care exceeds my household budget. In fact, according to the National Domestic Workers Alliance, in all but two states in the country, the average costs of child care exceed 20 percent of Black women's median annual earnings.

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.

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.

HB 4005 will:

Support providers and child care affordability for subsidy-eligible families by increasing subsidy rates to the 90th percentile of the 2020 child care market rate. Support Oregon's child care systems development through HB 3073 Implementation with increased capacity to stand up the new Department of Early Learning and Care. Delay fire code requirements on in-home child care providers to prioritize building new provider capacity while still keeping kids safe.

In an ideal world, I believe adequate childcare would entail no barriers to access, providers who look like you and your children, access to healthy foods and the outdoors, and clean space. I envision a system where my children and others can truly make friends and learn together.

It's time for the Legislature to recognize that a government-funded childcare infrastructure would benefit not just working parents, but also the childcare providers who struggle to stay financially afloat while providing essential services that are the backbone of our economy. Please support HB 4005.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Nyla Moore