

Submitter: Rae Jesequel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood
Measure: HB4005

February 2, 2022

To: House Committee on Early Childhood
From: Rae Jesequel, Tigard, OR
Re: Child Care and HB 4005
Email: raejesequel@icloud.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 Rae Jesequel and I live in Tigard, Oregon. I am a stay-at-home mom of 4 kids. I would like to go back to work to help support my family, but I have not been able to due to a lack of affordable and quality childcare. For the past 11 years, my husband has been our sole provider, and it's taken a toll on his health. Our society is simply not set up for families to live on one income anymore. That's 11 years I haven't been able to help out financially to alleviate stress for him, help put away savings for our kid's college, 11 years of missing out on contributing to our retirement, and our long-term security.

I thought I was going to be able to go back to work when my youngest started school. Then Covid hit. The problem of finding childcare was already so daunting, at that point it became insurmountable, and I found myself an unpaid stay-at-home teacher as well as mom. Even now, with my kids back in school, there have been too many quarantines and surprise classroom shutdowns and no backup childcare available, for me to go back to work. I personally know so many moms who had to drop out of the workforce due to a lack of childcare throughout the pandemic. I have seen so many moms in my area, single moms in particular, desperately reaching out to strangers for childcare so they can go to work.

This bill and the budget investments in child care won't fix everything, but they are a step in the right direction to repair our broken and ineffective childcare "system" in Oregon. I hope you will keep caregiving and caregivers (both paid and unpaid) in the front of your minds throughout the legislative session.

Thank you,
Rae Jesequel

