

Submitter: Jacqueline Ortega
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood
Measure: HB4005

Feb 2, 2022

To: House Early Childhood Committee
Re: Child Care Funding and HB 4005

Dear Chair Karin Power and Vice Chairs Lisa Reynolds and Jack Zika:

I became a mother very early in life. I have an older son who lives with his father and two boys that are 4 and 5. While my husband and I have done everything to pay for our basic needs, it has always been a struggle. For a while, my brother was able to help us with child care. Then we had to move 35 miles away and my brother was not able to move in with us so child care was not available or financially accessible. Then I was laid off due to the pandemic. Once I was asked to come back I could not because there was no accessible childcare for my two children.

All parents, regardless of their employment status or income level, deserve good, quality options for early education and childcare. But when child care is not available or not affordable, people like me can not work. HB 4005 would make it easier for child care providers to stay in business, and there would be more child care for families like mine.

I urge you to please fund childcare this legislative session and support HB 4005, because families like mine are all too common. We have been suffering before and during this pandemic. Our children deserve better and our communities will be better for it!

Jacqueline Ortega
Salem NE 97301