

Submitter: Kevin Aljandrez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood  
Measure: HB4005

February 2, 2022

To: House Committee on Early Childhood  
From: Kevin S. Alejandrez, Salem, OR  
Re: Child Care and HB 4005  
Email: kevin@centrodspc.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 Kevin Alejandrez and I live in Salem, Oregon.

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.

As a community organizer, I have heard countless stories of parents who struggle to find affordable childcare. In some instances, parents are forced to forgo work to stay home and care for their children which affects their family's income as well as the local economy. In other cases, parents work multiple jobs only to find an overwhelming amount of their income going towards childcare. Likewise, childcare providers have struggled to find stable work during the pandemic which also affects their financial security.

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.

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. 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,

Kevin S. Alejandre