

Submitter: Carine Arendes
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood
Measure: HB4005

February 2, 2022

To: House Committee on Early Childhood
From: Carine Arendes, Washington County resident
Re: Child Care and HB 4005
Email: carinearendes@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 Carine Arendes and I live in Washington County. I am the parent of an adult child. I will never be able to forget my struggles to obtain and afford quality child care as a single working mom. No care centers could accommodate my working hours, and in-home care was frequently impacted by provider turn-over and changes in availability. I tirelessly cultivated a fragile system reliant on a patchwork of friends, family and paid providers that was constantly at risk of disruption. This led to pervasive stress and anxiety over both my ability to work and to continue my education.

We already know how important quality child care is to early childhood development and this pandemic has made it clear how crucial our working families and child care workers are to a functioning and equitable economy. It is critical that families are supported in their efforts to obtain and afford child care.

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.

Our state needs to continue to invest in child care. I urge you to take action to expand child care options and support our workforce during this ongoing pandemic.

Investments in government-funded childcare infrastructure benefit not just working parents, but also the childcare providers who struggle financially while providing essential services that are the backbone of our economy. Please support HB 4005.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Carine Arendes