

Submitter: Amy Powers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood
Measure: HB4005

February 2, 2022

To: House Committee on Early Childhood
From: Amy Powers, Washington County
Re: Child Care and HB 4005
Email: apowers@oregonfoodbank.org

Chair Power, Vice Chairs Reynolds and Zika, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Powers. I am a resident of unincorporated Washington County, and I thank you for your continued work in our community.

I am a parent of two children and have struggled with accessing quality child care throughout their early years. When my oldest was an infant, I worked part-time jobs with no benefits and needed child care. In fact, one of those part-time jobs with no benefits was a child care provider. I had to choose to either pay for rent, food, or child care. During this pandemic, there are many stories like mine where parents have to make these tough choices and it should not be a choice any parent has to make.

In fact, right now, many of our children's teachers are in the same position we are. The primary teacher at my little one's preschool recently left due to low pay and lack of resources. And we've seen so many staff transitions as folks are sick and trying to take care of their own families during the continuing pandemic. This revolving door does not provide the kind of stability our children desperately need after 2 years of disruption. Parents need support, and child care providers need support.

I urge you to pass HB 4005 and fully fund the child care budget to ensure that our state supports early childhood, which includes families and child care employees. We desperately need a stronger infrastructure and to be set up to provide the best possible outcomes for our youngest community members and their mothers.

Sincerely,

Amy Powers