



Board of Directors

February 2, 2022

Tya Ping
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Rep. Karin Power, Chair
House Committee on Early Childhood
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

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

The Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) is the largest special park district in Oregon, spanning 50 square miles and serving about 250,000 residents in and around Beaverton, Oregon. Established over 65 years ago, THPRD's mission is to provide high-quality park and recreation facilities, programs, services and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse communities it serves.

THPRD is itself a child care provider and hosts child care providers in our facilities. Recognizing the needs of both THPRD staff and the communities we serve, before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe that every Oregon family should have access to high quality, affordable, and culturally relevant child care, and that every child care provider should be paid a wage that reflects the essential work they do. This is especially true as we know that child care providers are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and women of color and are among the lowest-paid workers.

In the 2021 regular legislative session, the THPRD board of directors supported HB 3703, which responded to the state's child care crisis and provided immediate and long-term relief to Oregon families most in need of child care. But there is more to do. Child care providers need additional support that rectifies the decades of financial scarcity they have experienced and that actually invests in building more child care supply, in compensating our providers and educators better – predominantly women and BIPOC women. Specifically, 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.

THPRD is committed to eliminating the historical inequities of systemic racism, removing barriers to participation, and fostering an inclusive culture. We are also committed to supporting efforts that are cultivated and led by members of the BIPOC community, as is the case with HB 4005. Please help ensure that the children, parents and families in our district and across Oregon have access to high quality, affordable, and culturally relevant child care and that every provider is paid a wage that reflects the essential work they do. We urge your support of HB 4005.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tya Ping", is written over a white background.

Tya Ping, President
THPRD Board of Directors