

Submitter: Jasmine Cassanova-Dean  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood  
Measure: HB4005

Jasmine Cassanova- Dean  
Testimony in support of HB 4005  
February 2nd, 2022

Dear 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 Jasmine Cassanova-Dean and I have a beautiful 2-year-old daughter.

I'm writing to support HB 4005 because as a parent, I know how important it is to have accessible and affordable child care. Currently I am only able to afford childcare for my daughter 2 days out of my work week. My daughter is home with me the other days of the week, and I have to juggle caring for her while working full time from home. It is so difficult to have to do both. I find myself shifting around my work schedule to accommodate my child's needs, asking for help from family and friends, or repeatedly telling my daughter that she has to wait for mommy to finish an important work meeting.

We are seeing an extreme lack of accessibility and funding for child care, which negatively impacts not only children and parents, but also child care providers and workers. Providers who are Black, Indigenous, and women of color, are disproportionately amongst the lowest-paid workers in our entire state. This needs to change. Child care providers and workers should be valued for the work that they do day in and day out.

Child care should be funded at the highest level. We need accessible and affordable child care for families so that parents can work, and so providers are not constantly struggling to keep their doors open. I and so many other parents shouldn't have to choose between caring for our children and working. Our state cannot afford to not invest in child care, especially in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. Please invest in child care and support HB 4005. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Jasmine Casanova-Dean