



## Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services  
From: Family Forward Oregon  
Date: January 23, 2023  
RE: In Support of House Bill 3005

Chair Reynolds , Vice-Chairs Hoa and Sharf, members of the committee:

If you talk with any parent of young children, you will hear about the difficulty families encounter accessing child care. Both finding a child care provider with an opening for their child and affording child care which can cost more than tuition in a state higher education institution. Nearly every county in Oregon is a child care desert, meaning there are less than one slot available for every three children. The numbers are even worse for our youngest Oregonians, infants and toddlers.

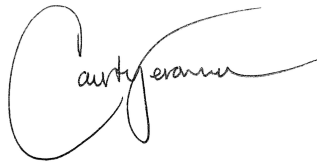
In 2021, advocates worked with the Oregon Legislature to pass HB 3073 (2021) which increased access to the state's child care subsidy program, providing financial assistance to more low-income families by reducing barriers to eligibility. Now, advocates are asking legislators to address the availability of child care by reducing barriers to opening and running a child care business.

The lack of supply across the state is both financial and regulatory. HB 2727 creates a workgroup convened by the Department of Land Conservation and Development to examine state and local barriers to citing a new child care business. Child care providers can attest that the barriers are both state and local. One example of a state barrier is in ORS 215 relating to exclusive farm use zoning. In the long list of acceptable buildings that includes schools and in-home child care businesses, child care centers are left off that list. We heard about a child care center in Crook County that was trying to open across the street from a school but was stopped due to the EFU restriction. Instead of building a center, they built a home serving a maximum of 16 children. This was a clear example of less child care supply being built due to zoning regulations.

In addition to state barriers, each city and county imposes rules that may inadvertently restrict establishing a child care business. In many cases, the local government may be unaware of the effect of certain regulations on the child care supply in their community. A workgroup allows us to examine various local regulations that could be limiting the establishment of new child care businesses.

HB 2727 will provide a report to the legislature and local governments with specific barriers and solutions to increase supply of child care locally and statewide. Addressing the barriers to citing a child care facility in our state and local regulations is essential for addressing the child care shortage in communities across Oregon. HB 2727 is an essential first step to identifying needed regulatory changes to increase child care supply, so that all families can find the child care they so desperately need.

Family Forward Oregon strongly urges your support for HB 2727.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Veronneau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

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Courtney Veronneau  
Senior Political Director  
Family Forward Oregon

