

Submitter: Angie Garcia

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2727

Dear Chair Reynolds and Vice-Chairs Hoa & Sharf,

My name is Angie Garcia and I live and work in Portland Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to share my experiences with you today. I own 2 centers in Portland, currently serving approximately 60 families and pre-pandemic I was serving over 100 families.

The pandemic has been particularly hard on my industry, and many providers have or are considering closing or down-sizing during a time when we need new providers and programs more than ever. However, the hurdles to opening a facility are many and difficult at every stage—particularly in accessing the initial funding needed and the appropriate and safe physical space needed to open a child care business. This is why I'm sharing my support today for House Bills 2727 and 3005.

HB 2727 could help reduce the various levels of red tape that providers face with working to comply with often overlapping zoning and building regulations. There is a huge need for additional child care places, but it is extremely difficult to find appropriate spaces and initial remodeling costs are not affordable. HB 3005 will help providers access much needed capital to open or expand our business—resources that are hard to access through traditional forms of lending for most child care providers.

HB 2727 and HB 3005 are significant steps to righting this ship and provide much needed support to providers. I urge you to vote yes and pass these two bills.

Thank you for your time.

Angie Garcia, MSW
Owner, Escuela Viva