



House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services, January 23rd, 2023  
Testimony in Support of HB 2727

Chair Reynolds, members of the Committee, I am Michael Burdick here representing the Association of Oregon Counties. AOC has been advocating on behalf of Oregon's county governments since 1906. I'm here to communicate our support for HB 2727.

Without access to childcare, participating in the workforce becomes very challenging or even impossible for parents. Childcare facilities are a critical piece of the overall economy and a critical piece of every community, but many Oregon communities don't have enough of them.

Childcare is one of the biggest expenses for working families, and many families already struggle to afford it. With providers in such short supply, childcare is bound to become even more expensive.

Even if Oregon wasn't experiencing a historic workforce shortage, ensuring adequate childcare in every community should be a priority.

It is possible that regulatory processes around land use and permitting could be improved in ways that make it easier to open new childcare facilities, and an effort to convene stakeholders to identify potential improvements, such as the one envisioned by HB2727, makes sense.

Counties are an important stakeholder in this work, because counties are responsible for making land use and permitting decisions pertaining to land in unincorporated areas of this state, and counties sometimes carry out these responsibilities for their cities and towns. AOC appreciates that HB 2727 includes representatives of counties in this workgroup.

We appreciate you giving this important issue your attention today in hearing HB 2727.

Best,

Michael Burdick  
Legislative Affairs Manager  
Association of Oregon Counties

**UNITED COUNTIES. UNITED OREGON.**

1212 Court St. NE | Salem, OR 97301-4181 | 503.585.8351 | [www.oregoncounties.org](http://www.oregoncounties.org)