

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of SB 599

February 1st, 2023

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson and members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

Every county in Oregon is a childcare desert and now in the midst of a workforce shortage, the need for affordable and accessible options for child care has reached a new height. This issue is especially urgent for our women, Black, Indigenous and families of color who provide home-based child care and who are more likely to live in rental homes and need protections for their business, livelihood, and stability for the children and families who rely on them for care.

Home-based child care is well-regulated by the Early Learning Division and a great option for families seeking child care, as it is often easier to find a local caregiver close to home and they often have more flexible hours. Thirty percent of infants and toddlers attend home-based child care as their primary care arrangement compared to just 12% in centers.¹ As we are investing in child care, there is a need for the physical space necessary to provide care for all children who need it. Investment in child care infrastructure to meet the growing need for suitable space is critical for child care providers, and home-based care is an essential component of existing infrastructure that can be utilized.

SB 599 protects child care providers operating in rental homes, protects landlords from liability, and provides parents with more child care options as well as clarifies existing statutes around home-based child care facilities. It is a part of a long-term multi-delivery solution for robust child care infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration, I urge your support in passage of SB 599.

Sincerely,

Rep Courtney Neron

Representative Courtney Neron

House District 26

Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain

¹ https://homegrownchildcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/HomeGrown_Child-Care-Fact-Sheet_final.pdf