

Submitter: Regina Ayars

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB3029

February 16, 2023

To: Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf and Members of the Committee,
I am writing to ask for your support of HB 3029.

I was a single parent and know first-hand the anxiety that parents feel when their child's care is in jeopardy. Affordability was an issue but more importantly for me was availability. I went back to work when my daughter was 3 months old. That was early for the times. I was still married but still needed quality care for my infant daughter. Finding childcare providers who would take infants was a challenge. Today, more mothers are going back to work when their children are still infants. There are just not enough qualified providers available to take care of infants.

Leaving my child with stranger was hard enough but not knowing if the caregiver was qualified to take care of an infant through education and training would have made it impossible. HB3029 offers incentives to caregivers such as loan repayment subsidies, stipends, and scholarships that would help people complete coursework that is needed to receive credentials in this field. With credentials, providers can expect higher wages which in turn makes the field of child caregiving more attractive which means more people will consider pursuing a career providing childcare. More providers means increased availability for working parents.

I strongly request that you vote for a DO PASS on HB3029. Thank you for your public service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regina Ayars Ashland, Oregon