



Support House Bill 2954

Expanding Affordable Childcare for Long Term Care Workers

Annual cost in Oregon

College: \$8,616

Housing: \$10,100

4-year-old care: \$8,787

Infant care: \$11,322

Source: Economic Policy Institute: *The cost of child care in the United States*

Direct Care Worker Profile—Oregon

	NURSING FACILITIES	COMMUNITY-BASED CARE	IN-HOME CARE	ACROSS ALL SETTINGS ¹⁷
% Female	83%	80%	83%	81%
Median Age	43	28	32	37
% w/ Children Under 18	20%	35%	34%	26%
% Identify as a Person of Color	23%	35%	31%	31%
% w/ Associates Degree or Higher	17%	16%	20%	19%

Source: Paraprofessional Health Institute, 2022.

Caregivers show up every day to support Oregon’s most vulnerable. Wages and benefits are improving, but it is challenging to keep pace with the rising expenses that families face. Long term care workforce development depends in part on providing better wraparound supports to defray costs related to childcare, housing, and transportation.

The demand for long term care services and supports is rising quickly as Oregon’s population ages. In order to meet that demand, more must be done to incentivize caregivers to spend their careers in long term care communities and expand the pipeline of qualified staff.

HB 2954 would help address the problem of childcare affordability by creating a pilot program for child care assistance for long term care caregivers at the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELDC). This pilot program will aid caregivers working in eligible licensed long term care facilities in Oregon, a majority of whom are women (81% female versus 19% male). DELDC must consider starting the pilot in geographic areas of the state that have the greatest need for childcare in relation to the number of long term care facilities. It will also explore expanding access to Employment Related Day Care benefits for those caregivers whose income is just above thresholds for ERDC eligibility, but for whom full-time childcare is still out of reach.

