

Submitter: Lucia Sanchez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2991

Dear Chair Lisa Reynolds and Vice-Chairs Hoa Nguyen & Anna Scharf,

My name is Lucia Sanchez and I live in Salem. In society we always say that the future of our children is the future of our country and communities. As parents, at some point we have all needed childcare services (unless we have the privilege of being financially stable and can stay home to raise our children). I don't have that privilege and most families in Oregon don't live with that privilege either. Therefore, we have to navigate many challenges that cause stress and anxiety and we face difficult decisions every day.

Even when we do have the financial support we need through a program like ERDC, we still have to find a child care that has room for our child. This is often not the case and it is a problem that is getting worse. Child cares are closing or limiting slots for many reasons, including that they can not find adequate staff. This has become a crisis.

You have in your hands the power to decide to make a change that can make a big difference. Today, I ask you to give yourself the opportunity to really see the reality with a parents' lens. If you needed childcare, what would you do if you literally couldn't find anywhere to leave your sons and daughters while you go to work? And what if your family's native language was Spanish, and there were no child cares with Spanish-speaking providers that had any slots? What would you do?

I ask that you do the right thing and properly support child care! HB 2504, HB 2991 and HB 3029 will help more caring women and men become child care workers, helping close the gap between the number of children needing care and the number of slots available. These bills will bring us one step closer to the future we need.

Sincerely,
Lucia Sanchez
Salem, OR 97305