

Submitter: Angie Garcia  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

April 7, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Ways & Means  
From: Angie Garcia, Portland, OR  
Re: Investment in child care

My name is Angie Garcia and I live and work in Portland Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to share my experiences with you today. I own 2 centers in Portland, currently serving approximately 100 families, and I'm getting set to open a third in Gresham, serving an additional 30 families.

As a provider, working with families for more than 20 years, I am struggling to recruit and maintain enough staff to serve the number of families looking to me for care. We are facing a crisis in the child care workforce. We need more child care workers. In particular, we need more child care workers who reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of our families. We also need more physical space to serve more families.

Many factors have contributed to the current situation and no one bill will fix it. But there are several bills before you this year that together will help. Please support and fund bills that:

Continue progress to fund quality and access across early learning and care.  
Decrease barriers to Oregon's child care subsidy program so that more families are served.  
Support the child care workforce by creating accessible, equitable workforce pathways, increasing compensation, and stabilizing the field.  
Create the infrastructure to expand quality early learning and care facilities.

We are in a child care crisis in Oregon right now. With increased funding and support, providers like me can expand our services and help meet the needs of more families. But we can't do this alone. We need you to act, and invest in building a subsidized, universal child care system.

Thank you for your time.

Angie Garcia, MSW