



Child Care That Works. For Every Family.

To: House Committee on Rules  
From: Child Care for Oregon  
Date: April 18, 2023  
RE: In Support of HB 2683 with -2 Amendment

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese Iverson and Kropf, members of the committee:

On behalf of the Child Care for Oregon Coalition, a coalition of nonprofit organizations, labor unions, community advocates, parents, caregivers and providers working to build a comprehensive early learning and child care system in Oregon, we strongly urge your support of House Bill 2683 and the -2 amendment.

While our state has made significant strides in passing HB 3073 (2021), we still have much work to do to achieve the universal child care system that Oregon needs and deserves. In order to fulfill the vision of HB 3073 (2021) which created the new Department of Early Learning and Care, and expanded eligibility for ERDC for populations like student parents and eligible children regardless of documentation status, we must pass HB 2683 with the -2 amendments.

HB 2683 will clarify in statute that eligibility for ERDC, Oregon's child care subsidy program, is possible for all allowable populations under federal guidelines for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDF). These expanded populations include:

- A child or family's involvement with child welfare and related services, regardless of income;
- A child or family's usage of homelessness, teen parent, or domestic violence services; and any other additional criteria established by the Early Learning Council, regardless of income.

The -2 amendment also phases in this expanded eligibility criteria over a reasonable timeline for both the Department of Early Learning and Care and the ONE eligibility system to effectively implement. So how does access to child care impact these vulnerable populations of children and families?

- Lack of access to child care is one of six leading causes of increased risk of child welfare involvement. In fact, an additional \$1,000 spent by states on child care assistance per person living in poverty is associated with a 63% reduction in foster placements.<sup>1</sup>
- High-quality early care and education buffers children and families from the challenges and risks of homelessness, and leads to better health and development for children.<sup>2</sup>
- In a survey asking the most common financial factors for staying with or returning to an abusive partner, 50% of respondents stated they would have problems affording child care.<sup>3</sup>

Oregon will need to invest in a range of multi-year strategies to build the child care system that Oregon families need and deserve, and it started with the passage of HB 3073 in 2021. Now in 2023, HB 2683 and the -2 amendment helps us strengthen our current child care subsidy program for Oregon's most vulnerable families and children while we continue to build toward a universal child care program for all. The Child Care for Oregon Coalition strongly urges your support for HB 2683 and the -2 amendment.

Sincerely,



Urban League of Portland

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/CA-CWC-06.01.22-Chapin-Hall-final.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/research-early-childhood-homelessness>

<sup>3</sup> <https://iwpr.org/iwpr-publications/report/dreams-deferred-a-survey-on-the-impact-of-intimate-partner-violence-on-survivors-education-careers-and-economic-security/>