

Submitter: Aida Parra

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Co-Chairs Senator Steiner and Representative Sánchez, Committee Members:

I am Aida Parra, a Registered Child Care Provider in Medford Oregon, and a single mother of a 13 year old son.

This is the first time in 15 years that my business is failing. Since the pandemic started I started losing customers. I have currently offered my services but have not been able to establish pre-pandemic capacity. I have been studying as a teacher for 8 years and due to the pandemic I have not been able to finish. I have 20 years of experience in child care and it is my passion since childhood. Unfortunately the infrastructure and system we have to work with is not working for the families I serve or for me. I am considering closing my business and looking for another job due to the serious situation I am experiencing.

We have a responsibility to ensure that future citizens are in a safe place and that we attend to all their needs. But right now it is a very difficult business to work. It has been difficult for me to grow my business to serve more children due to so many expenses and challenges. My dream is to open a bigger store in the future, due to all the needs that exist and to do what I am most passionate about, which is educating children.

Families in Oregon need access to quality, affordable child care so they can be financially secure and prosper. As providers we need more support to provide this service and also so that we can be financially secure and prosper. It is time for the Legislature to recognize that a government-funded child care infrastructure would benefit not only working parents, but also child care providers who are struggling to stay financially afloat while providing essential backbone services. of our economy. They need to use state savings funds to address this crisis and alleviate the full impact that underinvestment is having on our communities. We support this 100%!

Thank you

Aida Parra
Medford OR