

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Peter Lawson. I am the Director of Resource Development of Klamath Community College, and am writing in support of HB 3005/5030

Klamath Community College (KCC), in direct partnership with Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC), proposes the construction of an approximately \$10 million, shovel ready 12 classroom, 21,800-square-foot Childcare and Early Childhood Professional Training/ Learning Center that will provide up to 180 care slots for the community. The project timeline as envisioned, will be two years from the initial request for proposals for formal architectural design and engineering, funding procurement, site work, construction, and final inspection

Having access to a campus-central site will also allow KCC Early Learning Professional/ Education students (with an average cohort of 40 students/yr) the ability to address practicum needs while gaining workforce experience (historically difficult to find in Klamath County) — as well as pathways to employment opportunities post-graduation.

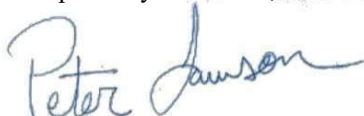
Operationally, OCDC will deliver student/parent-prioritized community childcare resources, while KCC will own the land and supply facility maintenance. Observational classrooms will be designed in such a way that they can be used for 100% preschool activity or modified so that each room can be divided into two classrooms for infants and toddlers. (depending on community needs). Plans include kitchen (for preparation of healthy meals), common area, private consultation rooms, administrative offices, playground(s), and dedicated parking/bus turn-out.

**The Need:** Klamath County is a childcare desert, defined as an area with only one childcare slot for every three children who need care-leaving 91% of infants/toddlers (0-2) and 76% of preschoolers (3-5) in the Klamath region with limited access to a childcare slot (Oregon’s Child Care Deserts: Mapping Supply by Age Group & Percentage of Publicly Funded Slots by Oregon State University, 2020). Moreover, an academic year 2019-2020 survey by KCC Institutional Research found that of 184 KCC students (all program types), 44.59% indicated a need for childcare. 84% stated cost was an issue, and 58.4% indicated lack of available and affordable childcare prevented some parents from taking classes (as student parents need both access to care and peace of mind assurances that their *children* are learning and cared for— in order to be successful in their own studies). Currently, 17 KCC students are supported by OCDC services, but lack of access to additional financing remains a key barrier to expanding facilities.

**Mission Alignment:** OCDC is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families by providing early childhood education, care, and advocacy, serving a diverse community including many socioeconomic backgrounds. KCC provides accessible, quality education and training and supports the diverse needs of its students, employer stakeholders, and the broader community. We believe the synergy of this effort has potential to effect dynamic change for those we serve and the community at large.

**Resources:** KCC has secured project dedicated land (3.5 acres developed for power and water access). Initial architectural designs and concept rendering are completed. As of this writing, KCC has received a \$1.5 million commitment from the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) Capital Division, and \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding through Klamath County for preliminary planning and site work.

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter RC Lawson, Director of Resource Development

Phone: 541.880.2363

Email: [lawson@klamathcc.edu](mailto:lawson@klamathcc.edu)