



May 5, 2023

Re: Pendleton Children's Center funding request, HB 5030

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

I am writing on behalf of the nonprofit Pendleton Children's Center, founded in 2019 to address the long-standing and profound shortage of child care and early education in Umatilla County.

In 2021 our board of directors began fundraising for renovations of our current building, a 1948 Quonset hut that was formerly the Senior Center of Pendleton. As of November 2022, we are licensed and certified, fully staffed and at full capacity with 36 children enrolled in our high-quality Oregon's Preschool Promise program.

**We are requesting \$5.5 million dollars.** This funding will cover the purchase and renovation of a large building next door to our current facility. **This is a shovel-ready project.** If we receive the full amount, we will be able to quickly expand our capacity from 36 to 150 children under age 5.

This funding would make a world of difference to parents, children, and to the businesses in our area who struggle to recruit and retain employees.

This week, the parents of 38 children learned that the only other large child care center in Pendleton will close permanently, compounding the local child care crisis, and leaving many of those parents with no other option but to reduce their work hours or leave the workforce entirely. Your approval of this \$5.5 million dollar funding request will help children and families for generations to come.

I also urge you to vote yes on House Bill 30-05, to create a Child Care Infrastructure Fund, which will help communities across the state respond to the child care shortage by helping fund child care and preschool facilities.

Thank you very much for your service to Oregon and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn B. Brown".

Kathryn B. Brown  
Secretary-Treasurer

Pendleton Children's Center is a 501(c)(3) federally tax exempt organization and contributions are tax deductible. Pendleton Children's Center tax identification number is 26-4441142.

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