



Child Care That Works. For Every Family.

To: House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business

From: Child Care for Oregon (CCFO)

Date: February 6, 2024

RE: In support of HB 4098-1

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Nguyen, members of the Committee,

Oregon is excited to welcome federal CHIPS investments, creating thousands of living wage jobs. Without child care, this workforce will be unable to access these jobs. That is why the Federal CHIPS Act urges employers and states to invest in child care affordability and access for CHIPS construction and facilities workers. HB 4098-1 addresses this child care need for the workforce needed first— construction workers.

The federal grant application asks applicants to provide child care plans for this workforce. HB 4098-1 offers Oregon applicants a child care plan that meets all the federal criteria through existing state programs. This bill is a “win-win” for Oregon’s semiconductor businesses and their workforce. Without the need to build their own child care centers or operate a worker subsidy program, CHIPS applicants can point to the investments and infrastructure in this bill to meet federal application requirements.

HB 4098-1 is also a “win-win” for the families of CHIPS construction workforce and the child care providers serving these families. By utilizing existing state programs for child care subsidy and child care infrastructure grants, providers need only navigate one program to receive payment for providing child care services and one program for their supply building grant application. And Oregon’s construction workforce and their families can better access and afford the child care they need.

If you talk with any parent of young children, you will hear about the difficulty families encounter accessing child care. Both finding a child care provider with an opening for their child and affording child care which can cost more than tuition in a state higher education institution.

These difficulties are particularly acute for mothers, with 42% saying they would increase their earnings and seek new job opportunities if they had better access to child care.<sup>1</sup> For women of color, one study suggests that child care access could have an even greater effect on employment and wages. More than half of Black mothers, and 48% of Latinx mothers reported

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/child-care-crisis-keeping-women-workforce/>

that they would look for a higher-paying job if they had better child care access—proving how necessary child care is to ensure economic and workforce development is carried out equitably.<sup>2</sup>

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation reports that states lose hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity due to parents inability to access and afford childcare<sup>3</sup>. Affordable and accessible child care is essential to grow Oregon’s available workforce and meet employers needs. Please join us in support of HB 4098-1.



Marchel Marcos  
PPACE Director with APANO  
Coalition Co-Chair



Courtney Veronneau  
Deputy Director of Movement Building  
Coalition Co-Chair



<sup>2</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/child-care-crisis-keeping-women-workforce/>

<sup>3</sup> "Untapped Potential: Economic Impact of Childcare Breakdowns in the U.S.", U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation