

HAI PHAM, DMD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 36



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 4091

February 7th, 2024

Good afternoon Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Diehl and Nguyen, and members of the House Economic Development and Small Business Committee,

For the record, my name is Hai Pham, State Representative for House District 36 which includes the communities of South Hillsboro, SW Beaverton and unincorporated Washington County. Thank you for the time and opportunity to testify in support of HB 4098.

This bill is one that I hold near and dear to my heart. As my parents and I arrived in the United States as refugees. They would take any job they could find, from housekeeping to yard work, which would mean they would work odd hours of the day. As a kid, I still remember tagging along with them late into the evening as they finished up their shift because they did not have access to child care. And even today, I know many families still don't have access to child care that works for them. HB 4098 gives us the opportunity to change that and find solutions to child care that works.

According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), only 8.1% of electrical and electronics engineers are women and only 8.5% of mechanical engineers are women. And for the construction and extraction professionals, the Bureau reports that only 4.2% of the workforce is made up of women. And in 2019 the [US Chamber of Commerce Foundation](#) conducted studies in four states - Idaho, Iowa, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania - to better understand the size of the child care problem in those communities. The report estimated that each state lost hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity due to breakdowns in childcare.

The passage of SB 4, CHIPS Act was a huge investment in our state and I know these dollars will be a boost to our economy and have multiplying effects in our communities for years to come. By investing \$210 million in SB 4, our state now has the ability to draw down billions of dollars in return. We **must** ensure that our businesses have the best case possible to win these grant dollars, and that we are appropriately growing and maintaining our workforce to meet the future demand as we build CHIPS facilities. With HB 4098, we can set businesses up for success in receiving CHIPS grants, and grow and maintain our workforce by strengthening access to affordable, accessible childcare.

We must be thoughtful in how we build up our infrastructure as Oregon is expected to pull in thousands of workers and we must have a robust plan for providing childcare. I believe that we

have the opportunity to center the needs of our historically marginalized and underrepresented communities, closing inequities, and by opening the door for communities to pursue their career goals by improving access to childcare.

In the federal CHIPS application, applicants must provide a “workforce development plan” and “describe any wraparound services and other barrier reductions they or their partners will provide” such as childcare. HB 4098 best sets up Oregon to pull down federal dollars by expanding existing child care programs to bolster our child care infrastructure. Without HB 4098, it will be very challenging for an individual business to start up child care centers or affordability programs. The [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation](#) estimates that it can take one and a half years to launch a new on-site program. This is truly a win-win-win for Oregon workers, families, and the industry.

Furthermore - this infrastructure can be replicated and expanded across sectors - broadband, offshore wind, behavioral health. We’re not just setting up the appropriate infrastructure for our state to receive federal CHIPS funds - we are setting up infrastructure that will solidify Oregon’s chances of successfully drawing down future federal grant monies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, I urge your support in passage of HB 4098.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hai Pham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hai" and last name "Pham" clearly distinguishable.

Hai Pham, DMD
State Representative HD 36