

Submitter: Kim Angle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB4158

My name is Kim Angle. I have been in the Early Childhood Education field since 1988. I am the Director of our family owned childcare center in Stayton OR. We are licensed for 45 children.

Over the many years that I have been in the ECE field, I have seen so many changes.

I feel there is a shortage of quality childcare in Oregon. I personally turn away approximately 4-5 infant requests weekly. I also turn away 3-4 pre-k and toddler care requests weekly.

Our center is the only center in Stayton that provides infant care in a certified child care setting. I see parents struggle to find care when I put them on a year-long wait list. Our center is full in all rooms.

Infant care is the least profitable age group. The staff ratio is 1 adult per 4 children with a maximum of 8 infants with 2 adults. This is why many centers have stopped doing infant care.

I wish our facility was bigger to accommodate more children. This bill would help small and rural providers like me to expand and serve more families. Your work to make sure that our needs are prioritized and there is funding set aside for us means a lot.

Retaining qualified staff is another challenge. I have lost long-term staff due to the fact that they can go to Amazon and make 5-7 dollars an hour more. Why would a package delivery person make more money than a child care provider that loves, protects, and mentors our future?

Quality child care is so important for kids and for families. I sincerely hope that the State of Oregon invests in child care providers and our children, who are our future.