



Date: February 7, 2024

To: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

RE: Wonderschool Testimony HB 4158

Chair Reynolds and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4158 on behalf of Wonderschool. Wonderschool was founded in 2016 with the mission of creating an ecosystem that empowers early educators to build sustainable businesses and enable families to easily find high quality childcare while addressing the childcare gap.

Wonderschool is grateful for the work of Rep. Hoa Nguyen and the other stakeholders who have worked hard to prioritize funding for childcare providers. HB 4158 with the -1 amendment will help us achieve this goal. This bill seeks to establish a grant program to provide much-needed funding for home-based childcare. We know that closing childcare gaps is a key priority of Governor Kotek and we are deeply supportive of this mission ourselves.

Wonderschool is supportive of the proposed -1 amendment which will ensure funding is flexible, allowing for creative solutions to Oregon's childcare gaps. Not all communities are created equal, and it is imperative we find unique approaches to eliminate childcare deserts. Home based childcare is an effective solution. These providers are most likely to operate in rural areas, provide culturally/linguistically appropriate care, care to children with disabilities, and offer odd hour care.

We thank the committee for their continued efforts to strengthen the childcare system in Oregon and look forward to working with the sponsors of this bill and fellow stakeholders to develop and implement sustainable programs in our highest need communities following the passage of HB 4158.

Thank you,

Wonderschool