



Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

## HB 4098 the Chips Childcare Act

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Diehl, Vice-Chair Nguyen and members of the committee

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition supports any effort to improve the quality, affordability and availability of childcare. We were pleased to learn that the US Department of Commerce recognizes the importance of childcare to the workforce needs of the nation. The requirement that companies have a plan for childcare if they receive \$150 million or more in CHIPS funding makes a strong statement of this need.

Oregon has great needs for affordable, quality childcare. This bill could serve as a pilot as well as a framework for childcare infrastructure.

It will not solve all the issues related to childcare, but it could be a starting point.

Childcare or programs that provide our youngest citizens with an early start can be a good return on investment. One of the members of the committee wondered about the return on investment in government provided programs. I have attached a separate document regarding the return on investment for Head Start, a national program with great return.

Please support HB 4098 for the future of our youngest citizens.

Marcia Kelley

Public Policy Advocate