

Submitter: Melissa Graboyes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce  
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3011

I am writing to speak to the current lack of affordable, high-quality child care capacity in Oregon. We cannot simply build more centers without a pipeline of qualified ECE professionals.

My family has been personally affected over the past 14 years as we sought out high quality childcare for our two daughters. Due to childcare shortages, my partner and I had to reduce our work hours in order to take on additional childcare responsibilities. We frequently found that childcare centers had long waitlists, were not near our homes, or were prohibitively expensive. The lack of childcare shaped our professional choices and opportunities.

We encourage the state of Oregon to invest not just in centers, but in qualified ECE professionals.