

Submitter: Britni Jessup

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce  
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3011

This bill is critical to the lives of Oregonians for many reasons. As a working mother of 2, having access to high-quality childcare when my children were smaller was a critical part of my ability stay in the workforce and continue to provide for my family. It was important to their development and independence to have high-quality, trained childcare providers teach them early learning habits and prepare them for the educational system. Each teacher they encountered became a trusted and loved adult outside of their family, creating a strong sense of confidence in them through the support of the larger community they live in. As an Architect, I've had the opportunity to work with higher education institutions on childcare projects in recent years and seen, firsthand, the impacts of quality care for students, staff and community members. I've seen the struggles and budget issues in running a center - from both sides. Parents are struggling to afford the care and centers are struggling to pay livable wages to their teachers. The system is broken on both ends. And as an employer, I've watched the landscape of childcare change for our young parents in even the last 5 years with a lack of availability, affordability and consistency. This has affected their professional growth and long term potential. This profession should be funded, valued, compensated and trained as if it is creating the next generation of well-adjusted adults in our communities because it is the critical first step in every life.