

**College of Education**

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

**February 10, 2025**

**House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee  
900 Court Street NE, HR C  
Salem, OR 97301**

**Testimony in Support of Oregon House Bill 3011 – Child Care Solutions: Building the Early Childhood Education Workforce**

Dear Chair Hudson and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our strong support for the House Bill 3011 as Professors of Early Childhood Education and Child Youth and Family Studies & Human Services as well as Deans in the College of Education at Portland State University. **PSU supports HB 3011**, which aims to address the critical shortage of affordable, high-quality childcare and early childhood education (ECE) services in our state, while simultaneously building a qualified ECE workforce.

In our PSU College of Education and School of Social Work, our ECE Teacher Educators have engaged in the national associations for years, which assists us in producing excellent education results locally. For example, Professor Parnell is Past-President of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators that closely collaborates with the National Association for the Education of Young Children. **Through such national organizations and locally, we have worked tirelessly to address the 60% reduction of the national and local ECE workforce, which has been vacating the industry since the pandemic. These problems have arisen due to the low pay, lack of benefits, poor morale, lack of access to affordable higher education degree programs, and society's undervaluing of ECE educators/childcare.** Oregon's youngest children, their families, and teachers need us more than ever to build meaningful and impactful learning places for them to spend their days. Our state is in desperate need of building a well-educated workforce of early childhood teachers and leaders who know how to best educate and meet the learning and care needs of every child (and family) in our communities.

Oregon is currently grappling with an urgent childcare crisis that affects families, communities, and the economy. The lack of accessible, affordable, and high-quality childcare options is compounded by a shortage of qualified professionals to support these services. **This is a challenge that requires immediate attention, and HB 3011 offers a thoughtful and impactful solution.**

Limited state investment in universities like PSU exacerbates our challenges with investing upfront in ECE programs to expand capacity, increase the number of graduates, and provide quality childcare on campus. The proposed \$20 million investment in Oregon's public university and community college infrastructure under HB 3011 will provide much-needed support for campus childcare centers and hands-on educational programs. These centers will serve as essential professional growth hubs for students earning ECE degrees, while also addressing the increasing demand for affordable, quality childcare.

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PSU knows the value of campus children's programming having researched these topics for over 30 years. We know that a student parent's GPA will increase in a single year by having their child(ren) in nearby, high quality, and accredited child care programs with educated professionals. As professionals lead in classrooms, they demonstrate excellent practices and act in the capacity of a full day laboratory for pre-service and in-service teachers seeking to deepen and augment their early childhood classroom and school practices. Our on-campus ECE centers provide much needed community support and ongoing engagements to produce constant and continuous improvements in ECE practices and programming across our state.

**HB 3011 directly addresses these critical gaps by investing in publicly funded post-secondary ECE degree programs and campus-based ECE centers, which will serve as hands-on learning environments for students.** These centers will not only provide essential real-world experience for ECE majors but will also benefit students pursuing related fields such as special education, early intervention, psychology, and human physiology.

**We urge you to support our families and communities with HB 3011!** Investing in the ECE workforce is investing in Oregon's children, families, and future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dean of the College of Education, Maneka Brooks

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Amanda Sugimoto

Professor Will Parnell

Assistant Professor Sally Guyon

Associate Professor Ingrid Anderson

Associate Professor and CYFS & HS Program Director, Jana Pursley