



Representative Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

HB 4057 SECBH

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson and members of the Committee, for the record I am State Representative Lamar Wise from HD 48, SE Portland and North Clackamas.

I am here on behalf of House Bill 4057, as amended, which is the result of a thoughtful work group convened at the direction of Representative Hartman. The charge was simple: identify practical ways to better align our early childhood systems so families can more easily access the supports that already exist.

This bill takes an important and responsible step forward.

Under current practice, families who apply for or are waitlisted for Employment Related Day Care are not consistently provided clear, standardized information about other publicly funded early learning and care programs they may qualify for.

House Bill 4057 addresses this gap. It directs the Department of Early Learning and Care, in coordination with the Department of Human Services through interagency agreement, to ensure these families receive standardized information about available early learning programs and resources across our state.

Importantly, the amended bill does not create a new program, expand eligibility, or increase benefit levels. Instead, it improves alignment and

communication so families can better understand and access programs that already exist, including Preschool Promise, Oregon Prenatal to Kindergarten, Healthy Families Oregon, Early Learning Hubs, Relief Nurseries, and Head Start.

Too often, families enter through one doorway and never learn about other supports available to them. This bill helps ensure our system is easier to navigate and more responsive to the needs of families.

It is a pragmatic, cost-conscious step that strengthens coordination, respects existing agency work, and centers families.

Colleagues, when parents are seeking child care, often while balancing work, education, and caregiving, they deserve clear information and meaningful access to support.

I respectfully urge your “Aye” vote on House Bill 4057.

Thank you.