



Child Care That Works. For Every Family.

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Child Care for Oregon

Date: February 1, 2023

RE: In Support of SB 599

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, members of the committee:

My name is Marchel Marcos, I am the Political Director of APANO, a community driven organization envisioning a just world where Asians and Pacific Islanders and communities who share our aspirations and struggles have the power, resources, and voice to determine our own futures, and where we work in solidarity to drive political, social, economic, and cultural change. However, today I am here representing the Child Care for Oregon Coalition, a coalition of nonprofit organizations, labor unions, community advocates, parents, caregivers and providers working to build a comprehensive early learning and child care system in Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of Senate Bill 599.

Our entire economy is dependent on equitable access to child care. Like roads and bridges, affordable, high-quality child care is necessary infrastructure. Parents need affordable child care that provides a peace of mind that their children are learning and loved. Employers need their employees to have access to reliable, affordable child care so they can return to work. And our future workforce demands must ensure that all children have access to child care environments that stimulate development and get kids ready to learn in K-12.

While our state has made significant strides in the last few years in addressing the child care crisis, we still have much work to do. One of the areas demanding urgent attention is rental protections for in-home child care operators, which is addressed in SB 599. Without these protections, providers who rent their homes are always at risk of their business going under.

Rental protections are especially important for child care providers and families who are Black and Indigenous, people of color, immigrants and refugees, and low-income. These providers are more likely to live in rental housing. And families from these groups often prefer home-based care as they see it being a better fit to their cultures, backgrounds, and values.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, most families need child care near where they live, yet we often see greater challenges in access for families living in low-income census tracts. Fair and reasonable protections for home-based providers who rent will help expand child care access in general, and will especially expand opportunities for child care that is culturally-specific and/or serving low-income families. It will also provide greater economic opportunity and stability for child care providers who are renters.

Senate Bill 599 is a step forward in protecting Oregon's in-home child care providers. We urge your support for Senate Bill 599.



<sup>1</sup> [https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/addressing\\_decreasing\\_fcc\\_providers\\_revised\\_march2020\\_final.pdf](https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/addressing_decreasing_fcc_providers_revised_march2020_final.pdf)