



To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development
RE: In Support of SB 599

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 599. My name is Sol Mora and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color, an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to cross-cultural collective action for racial justice.

Quality, accessible, and affordable child care is a necessity for Oregon's working families. The success of our economy depends on our state's ability to cultivate a successful child care system for all Oregonians. However, Oregon is currently facing a lack of infrastructure to house child care services, contributing to child care deserts across the state, wherein families must face long waitlists, limited availability, and often must turn to other avenues to access child care services.

At a time when child care deserts are continuing to affect more and more families, the importance of home based child care providers that can operate from their home and offer these crucial services is heightened. This type of child care service is especially essential to families and parents that live in rural areas that lack other local child care facilities and additionally those who need access to services that are culturally or linguistically specific.

Nonetheless, many home based child care providers are facing difficulties due to living in rentals with little to no protections while operating their business. Oftentimes home based child care providers must discontinue their services due to sudden changes if their property is sold to a new landlord or their home is sold entirely and they must find a new place to live.

To address Oregon's child care crisis, our solutions must be holistic and take into account all the ways that we can promote new and current child care services, whether they be at a facility or at a provider's home. SB 599 is a key part of the solution and will ensure that home based child care providers are adequately protected. This legislation will guarantee that landlords may not prohibit a tenant from operating a home based child care, as long as the child care is certified or registered with the Early Learning Division and the tenant has notified the landlord of the use.

Alongside additional investments in child care infrastructure expansion, creating protections for child care providers who operate in rentals will help to provide all-around more access to child care services to Oregonians across the state, from renters, to rural communities, to immigrants and refugees. On behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color, I ask that you **support SB 599** to strengthen Oregon's child care system and increase access to home based child care services.

Thank you,
Sol Mora
Advocacy Director
Coalition of Communities of Color