

THE 2025 CHILDREN'S AGENDA

OUR CHILDREN
Oregon
VOICES UNITED.
OPPORTUNITY REIMAGINED.

February 18, 2025

TO: House Early Childhood & Human Services Committee
FROM: Ali King, on behalf of Our Children Oregon's Children's Agenda
SUBJECT: Support for HB 3496

Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Scharf & Nguyen, and members of the Committee,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO). I am writing on behalf of The Children's Agenda, convened by OCO, which brings together a coalition of more than 135 organizations statewide dedicated to improving child wellbeing in Oregon.

HB 3496 is included in the 2025 Children's Agenda and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.

As a coalition of child and family advocates, educators, administrators, parents, and policy experts, we have seen firsthand how important access to quality child care is for children, families, and the economy.

Child care not only plays a critical role in child development, it also plays a critical role in our community and economy, enabling parents to be part of the workforce or to further their education by attending school. Yet, most counties in Oregon are child care deserts.

In order to expand access to child care, we need workable physical locations, skilled workforce, and operating subsidies.

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We appreciate your dedication and commitment to improving the lives of Oregonians and we strongly urge you to vote **yes on HB 3496**, which supports efforts to find suitable child care locations.

Sincerely,

Our Children Oregon
Children's Institute
Black Parent Initiative
Center for Childhood Safety and Wellbeing
Housing Oregon
Latino Network
Next Up Action Fund
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
Oregon Association of Student Councils
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Housing Alliance
Oregon Primary Care Association
Oregon School Nurses' Association
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Southern Oregon Success
Urban League of Portland
Vision To Learn
Washington County Kids

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