



Child Care That Works. For Every Family.

To: House Early Childhood & Human Services Committee

From:

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Re: HB 3496 – Best Practices Guide for Citing & Incentivizing Child Care

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

On behalf of 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, we strongly urge your support for House Bill 3496.

Access to quality child care supports children's developing brains and bodies. Child care supports parents' ability to work and attend college. And child care supports the economy, allowing companies to fill open positions with a ready workforce. In short, **Oregon kids, families, and businesses need child care.**

Yet, most counties in Oregon are child care deserts. To expand child care, we need workable physical locations, a skilled workforce, and operating subsidies. **HB 3496 supports efforts to find suitable child care locations.** The legislation directs the Department of Land Conservation and Development to create model code and a best practice guide to make it easy for cities and counties to do the right thing—make it easier for child care providers to navigate local zoning, building code, and permitting processes.



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Child care providers often go through zoning, building code, and permitting processes only once or twice in the course of their career. Too often, this process is time-consuming and financially devastating. But there are cities and counties in Oregon and across the nation taking proactive steps to make their codes and processes easier for child care providers. **We urge you to support HB 3496 so accessible zoning and permitting processes for child care are the norm, not the exception.**

In conclusion, we urge you to support House Bill 3496, as it has the potential to greatly improve access to child care in Oregon. By streamlining zoning and permitting processes for child care providers, this legislation will support families, strengthen the workforce, and boost economic growth statewide.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,



Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children

