



## Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services  
From: Family Forward Oregon  
Date: January 23, 2023  
RE: In Support of House Bill 3005

Chair Reynolds , Vice-Chairs Hoa and Sharf, members of the committee:

While the affordability of child care is a significant barrier for parents in need of care, lack of supply in every county of this state is equally concerning for families with young children. Even if tomorrow we magically had enough money to provide subsidized care to every family that needs it, we would not have the facilities needed to provide that child care. Both urban or rural areas have a shortage of facilities appropriate for child care and early learning. HB 3005 provides a framework for building facilities to care for our youngest Oregonians.

HB 3005 creates a granting program in the Department of Housing and Community Services allowing new and existing child care providers to apply for funds that would assist them in buying, planning, building and renovating child care facilities. Technical assistance will assure the success of these projects and result in providing more child care supply through our state. Investing in child care supply is a two-prong workforce strategy; allowing parents to work and educating Oregon's future workforce.

Many are focused on economic development in this legislative session. No workforce development strategy passed by the Legislature this year can be successful without addressing Oregon's child care shortage. Like roads and bridges, child care is necessary infrastructure that allows people to go to work. Without the buildings to provide child care services, Oregon's child care supply issues cannot be fully addressed.

If you talk to any parent of small children, you will hear about the difficulty they experience accessing child care. Nearly every county in Oregon is a child care desert, as it was before COVID-19, meaning there are only enough regulated slots available for less than a third of a community's children.<sup>1</sup> Investing in much needed facilities for child care and early learning is a necessary step in addressing Oregon child care shortage. Please pass HB 3005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna M. Lazarus".

<sup>1</sup> "Supply and Demand in Oregon: How Equitable is Child Care Access?", Oregon State University

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