



May 4, 2021

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2484A

Chair Jama, Vice-chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First for Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

The Children's Agenda

is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.

HB 2484A: Ensuring child care providers can operate in rentals is part of the 2021 Children's Agenda. We support this bill because:

- Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, every county in Oregon was a child care dessert for infants and toddlers.
- Oregon's current child care system doesn't effectively meet the needs of children, parents, and providers, nor does it support Oregon's economic recovery.
- Protections are greatly needed for home-based child care providers who rent their homes, a part of the system that is disproportionately comprised of BIPOC providers.

Prior to the pandemic, all 36 Oregon counties were considered child care deserts for infants and toddlers, and 27 counties were considered child care deserts for preschool aged children. A child care desert is a community with three or more children per child care slot available. A 2019 Oregon State University report, [Oregon's Child Care Deserts: Mapping Supply by Age Group, Metropolitan Status, and Percentage of Publicly Funded Slots](#), found that Oregon had eight infants and toddlers for every slot.

The status quo isn't working for providers, and it certainly isn't working for children. This bill was inspired by child care providers working in their



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rental homes raising this issue. Home-based child care helps meet a critical child care need in Oregon. Yet, there are not currently protections for renters to operate child care businesses from their homes. This has a disproportionate impact on women who are Black and Indigenous, people of color, and immigrants and refugees, who are more likely to live in rental housing.

Fair and reasonable protections are an important way to expand child care access, generate more culturally specific child care settings, and improve economic opportunities for renters.

Oregon must start now to build the system we need. We ask for your support of HB 2484A.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director

Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

View the 2021 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda