

January 23, 2023

Representative Lisa Reynolds, Chair
 House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
 Oregon State Capitol
 900 Court Street NE
 Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Child Care Facilities

Dear Chair Reynolds and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services:

I write on behalf of Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) to urge your support for a significant investment in child care facility expansion and improvement.

Oregon has lost approximately 20% of its child care supply since 2020, and as an early childhood funder OCF hears regularly from communities around the state about the challenges in addressing the crisis in the supply of child care. For the past 20 years OCF has supported professional development of the early childhood workforce, but more recently we have increased our focus on supporting small child care proprietors with technical assistance and coaching around business operations where we are hearing first hand, from new and seasoned providers, about the challenges in navigating and acquiring adequate physical space for their programs.

We applaud the progress that has been made in supporting child care providers and the families they serve since the start of the pandemic and are encouraged that the legislature is exploring ways to address one of the main barriers in Oregon's longstanding and worsening child care shortage for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers – physical space and funding for equitable acquisition and improvements of child care facilities.

Sincerely,

Senior Education Strategy and Policy Advisor

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