



January 23, 2023

TO: House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services
FROM: The Children's Agenda
RE: Support of HB 3005 & HB 2727

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

The Children's Agenda, convened by Our Children Oregon, brings together ~127 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to advancing whole-child advocacy and improving the well-being of Oregon's children, youth, and families. Our collective created a 2023 legislative agenda that focuses on community-driven solutions to provide access and opportunities for all children and families. **This year, investing in early childhood and child care is a top priority of the 2023 Children's Agenda.**

Oregon has made significant strides in improving the lives of our children, including making much-needed investments in early childhood and child care. However, the industry continues to be marked by ongoing challenges like ever-increasing demand, rising costs of care, and disproportionate and pervasive racial and regional disparities.

One of the challenges that we can address right now is the underinvestment in early childhood facilities and infrastructure. Child care and preschool facilities are essential community infrastructure, but we don't have enough of them to meet demand. We must therefore invest in supplying more facilities and help existing providers and programs expand.

The Children's Agenda strongly supports HB 3005 and HB 2727:

- **Early Childhood Infrastructure Fund (HB 3005):** Create an early learning and care facilities fund to expand quality, culturally relevant programs in Oregon.
- **Child Care Zoning and Building Code Study and Recommendations (HB 2727):** Create a task force to conduct a review of five local government zoning, land use, and building code requirements and their impact on early learning and care facilities in homes and centers, including disproportionate impacts. The task force will then make recommendations.

Without continued investment in early childhood infrastructure, such as HB 3005 and HB 2727, the lack of facilities will have a profound impact on children, families, and all our care providers, especially for providers who our systems are not designed for. This includes women, providers of color, providers who speak languages other than English, and providers in remote, rural communities. By investing in early childhood facilities infrastructure, we will increase access to quality early learning and care, ensuring the healthy development and prosperity of our children.

We thank you for your time and efforts to improve child well-being across the state. We urge your support of HB 3005 and HB 2727.

Sincerely,

Children's Institute
Clackamas Women's Services
Community Action Team, Inc
FACT Oregon
Families First Parent Resource Center
Family Forward Oregon
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
Friends of Outdoor School
IRCO
Oregon Alliance of YMCAs
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries
Oregon AEYC
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Kids Read
Oregon PTA
Oregon Primary Care Association
Oregon Resource Family Alliance
Our Children Oregon
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Pro-Choice Oregon
Reach Out and Read Northwest
ReadyNation
SEIU 503
Washington County Kids



Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children

