



February 28, 2025

House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
900 Court St. NE, HR E
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 3560 – Child Care Centers

Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 3560. The City of Portland is committed to reducing regulatory barriers to the development of both childcare homes and childcare centers, recognizing their critical role in supporting families and fostering equitable access to essential services.

Oregon families encounter substantial difficulties in securing childcare due to limited availability and a lack of affordable options. House Bill 3560 seeks to address these challenges by reducing zoning restrictions and other regulatory barriers to expand childcare access to many more locations.

Additionally, this bill will serve as a catalyst for economic growth. Limited access to affordable childcare presents a significant barrier to workforce participation, hindering employment opportunities for parents and reducing overall productivity. By expanding childcare availability, Oregon can enhance employee recruitment and retention,



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improve workplace productivity, and support long-term career advancement. Furthermore, ensuring that all children have access to high-quality childcare environments is essential for early development and school readiness, laying the foundation for success in the K-12 education system.

The City of Portland is collaborating with advocates to seek further clarification on the minimum density standard and reduce the need for conditional use reviews, and we appreciate the opportunity to work alongside the proponents of the bill on these key provisions.

I urge your support for HB 3560.

Sincerely,



Eric Engstrom

Interim Director

City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability



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