

February 8, 2021

RE: HB 2484 – Requiring landlords to allow dwelling to be used as family child care home.

Dear Chair Power and members of the House Early Childhood Committee,

The Early Childhood Coalition is supporting HB 2484 to provide protections to child care providers operating in rental homes. Oregon's child care system as it currently exists does not meet the needs of children, parents, providers, or Oregon's economic recovery. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, every county in Oregon was a child care desert for infants and toddlers. Oregon must take action today to build the system we need.

Home-based child care helps meet a critical need in Oregon. Yet, the state has no protections for renters operating child care businesses from their homes, further exacerbating the child care crisis. The impacts fall disproportionately on providers who are Black and Indigenous, people of color, and immigrants and refugees, because these providers are more likely to live in rental housing and less likely to own their homes.

HB 2484 was inspired directly by child care providers working in their rental homes. One provider shared her experience of running a 5-star rated child care out of her home before her landlord abruptly asked her to either stop providing care, or move out within two weeks. Another provider operated a child care for 10 children in Astoria, Oregon for 10 years before she got a new landlord who told her to close. She now works at a cannery. A third child care provider has been looking for a rental home since October, and has been turned down dozens of times. She is now on the verge of being homeless after 27 years of providing needed and nurturing care to children. **Stories like these exist across Oregon; providers need and want the protections laid out in HB 2484.**

The status quo isn't working for providers, and it certainly isn't working for children. Oregon's Early Childhood Coalition knows all children are born full of potential. Yet young children who experience barriers to opportunity due to racism, classism, and other forms of discriminatory policy and practice are often denied access to proven programs and services that strengthen early learning and healthy development. **Fair and reasonable protections for renters are one piece of expanding child care access and opportunities for culturally specific child care settings,** and they will also provide economic opportunity for renters. We urge you to put children and racial equity at the center of decision-making.

We urge your support of HB 2484.

Sincerely,

Adelante Mujeres

Africa House

Alliance for Equity in Montessori Education (AEME)

Central Oregon Chapter-Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children

Central Oregon Community College-Early Childhood Education Program

Children's Institute

Early Learning Hub of Central Oregon

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Early Learning Multnomah

Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub

Family Forward Oregon

Immigrant Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)

Lane Early Learning Alliance

Latino Network

Metropolitan Family Service

Multnomah County

NW Early Learning Hub

Our Children Oregon

Pacific Islander and Asian Family Center (PIAFC)

Reach Out and Read Oregon

Social Venture Partners Portland

South Coast Regional Early Learning Hub