



May 3, 2023

TO: House Early Childhood and Human Services
FROM: Our Children Oregon, The Children's Agenda
RE: Support of SB 599

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 ~130 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.** In 2021, legislation to ensure child care providers can operate in rentals was part of the 2021 Children's Agenda, and we are returning in 2023 by supporting SB 599.

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. The status quo isn't working for providers, and it certainly isn't working for children. This bill was inspired by childcare providers working in their rental homes raising this issue. Home-based child care helps meet a critical child care need in Oregon. Yet currently, there are no protections for renters to operate child care businesses from their homes. These providers are disproportionately women, low-income, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and immigrants and refugees.

Every child care provider should have the right to provide care in any residential property, regardless if they are renters or owners. Those who run their business from their homes provide long-term benefits including healthy child development, increased cognitive abilities, and improved language development. Alongside the benefits for children and parents, providers will have the advantage of flexibility and one-on-one attention. That's why **the Children's Agenda strongly supports SB 599.** This bill would ensure that home-based child care providers cannot be denied a lease just because they are child care providers. It also allows landlords the option to ensure there is liability protection in place if desired.

Protections are greatly needed for home-based child care providers who rent their homes.

These 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. We thank you for your time and efforts to improve child well-being across the state. We urge your support of SB 599.

Sincerely,

Our Children Oregon	Oregon AEYC
Children's Institute	Oregon CASA Network
APANO	Oregon Center for Public Policy
CCS of Mid-Willamette Valley	Oregon Food Bank
Coalition of Communities of Color	Oregon Kids Read
Clackamas Women's Services	Oregon Primary Care Association
FACT Oregon	Oregon Resource Family Alliance
Families First Parent Resource Center	Oregon School-Based Health Alliance
Family Forward Oregon	Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
Friends of Outdoor School	Pro-Choice Oregon
IRCO	Reach Out and Read Northwest
Neighborhood Partnerships	SEIU 503
Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries	Southern Oregon Success
Oregon AG's Sexual Assault Task Force	Washington County Kids