

## 2025 Lobby Days

**House Bill 3011: Establishes an Early Childhood Education Workforce Development Fund and appropriates \$20 million to the Fund. One third of the money would go to public universities and community colleges that offer early childhood education degree and certificate programs, one-third to those that have campus-based childcare centers that offer job training to students, and one-third per degree or certificate that the institution grants in early childhood education fields.**

**Talking Points/Benefits:**

- a. The bill would expand and strengthen the early childhood education programs at Oregon public universities and community colleges, thereby increasing the number and professionalism of early childhood teachers.**
- b. The investment in Oregon's public university and community college infrastructure would also support campus childcare centers which would serve as essential professional growth hubs for students earning Early Childhood Education (ECE) degrees.**
- c. The program also benefits students enrolled in Oregon's public universities and community colleges. According to PSU, a student-parent's GPA will increase in a single year by having their child(ren) in nearby child-care programs.**
- d. By helping to provide childcare, the bill supports a more productive workforce that contributes to a stronger economy throughout the state.**

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**Committee: House Higher Education and Workforce Development**

**Sponsors: The Chief Sponsor is Representative Neron. Regular Sponsors include Representatives Fragala, Gamba, Munoz, Nguyen H., Pham H., Sosa, Walters, and Wright, and Senators Broadman, Campos, Frederick and Patterson.**

**Other Organizations in Support:** League of Women Voters of Oregon, Portland State University, and Community Colleges, among others.

**Issue:** Oregon is dealing with an urgent childcare crisis that affects families, communities, and the economy. According to a state-wide study published in 2023, there are enough childcare providers for just 18% of children ages 0-2 and 37% for children ages 3-5. In 23 of Oregon's counties, the percentage drops as low as 10% for infants and toddlers. The lack of accessible, affordable and high-quality childcare options is compounded by a shortage of qualified professionals to support these services.

Childcare is the “workforce behind the workforce”. A U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation study found that breakdowns in childcare cause states to lose an average of \$1 billion in economic activity annually, due in part to the lost revenue from parents missing work because quality childcare was not available or accessible. Employers of all sizes and industries cite inadequate childcare as a barrier to recruitment, retention, attendance and productivity.

**Benefits:**

a. The bill would expand and strengthen the early childhood education programs at Oregon public universities and community colleges, thereby increasing the number and professionalism of early childhood teachers.

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