



Child Care Alliance



*From the
Office of Representative Hoa Nguyen*

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Rep. Nguyen Re-establishes the Child Care Alliance, Announces Legislative & Funding Priorities for 2024

After one year without leadership, the legislative Child Care Alliance Rep. Hoa Nguyen is focused on creating a cohesive vision for the future of child care in Oregon.

SALEM, Ore. – Rep. Hoa Nguyen (D-East Portland and Damascus), a first-term legislator, current school board member, and the daughter of Vietnamese refugees spent the interim igniting the Child Care Alliance within the state legislature. This alliance consists of a group of lawmakers, community organizations, labor unions, families, and businesses who regularly meet to increase access to child care in Oregon.

“Having affordable and accessible child care is something every Oregonian deserves because it gives every family the opportunity to thrive,” said Nguyen. “We all agree - just like roads and bridges, child care is necessary infrastructure. It keeps parents working and ensures that children get the education they need and deserve. This group has existed in the past but it was not active during the last legislative session. I’m proud to be working with a diverse group of legislators on this issue that impacts everyone..”

In collaborating on the shared vision of increasing access to affordable child care in Oregon, the Alliance identifies priorities prior to each legislative session, connects the community with valuable resources, and advocates for policies and resources devoted to child care.

Once Nguyen re-established the group, legislators met with business leaders, workforce and labor organizations, families, and community organizations to determine the legislative and funding priorities for the 2024 legislative session. The 2024 Priorities of the Child Care Alliance are as follows:

HB 4158 This legislation expands rural and culturally responsive care to ensure that child care providers most likely to operate in rural areas provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care, care for children with disabilities, and offer odd hour care have access to these grant dollars. The legislation is an important tweak to the existing Child Care Infrastructure Fund, which was created following passage of HB 3005 in 2023.

“Ensuring dedicated and flexible funds are available to support these providers in starting or expanding their businesses is critical to building the mixed-delivery care system parents and employers need.” Nguyen said about the bill.

HB 4098

This bill will help Oregon applicants in winning CHIPS grants, meet worker needs for child care, and bolster the workforce by providing child care assistance. The Federal CHIPS Act of 2022 and subsequent guidance explicitly states that business grant applicants will be evaluated, in part, based on their strategy to address childcare supply and affordability for facility and construction workers.

“HB 4098 is a win-win-win for Oregon’s economy” **Rep. Jules Walters** (D-West Linn) said of her bill - “for construction workers and their families, for the child care providers that work so hard to serve their communities, and for the semiconductor industry who will benefit greatly”.

Employment Related Day Care Funding

Oregon’s Employment Related Day Care program is facing a budget deficit. In addition to the budget hole, we currently have 1,900 families on the waitlist – unable to receive the critical child care assistance they need to continue working or going to school.

“The ERDC program is a lifeline for families,” **Rep. Thuy Tran** (D-Northeast Portland) said about her advocacy for funding this program. “It keeps parents working and ensures kids get the early education they deserve. While budget realities must be considered, at a minimum, we must invest sufficient funding so families who are currently enrolled in the program have access to affordable, accessible child care”.

The [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation](#) reports that states lose hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity due to parents inability to access and afford childcare. It is imperative that in addition to the \$99M spending authority that the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), the Legislature also allocates \$75M to a Special Purpose Appropriation account(SPA). This would ensure that DELIC has the ability to keep this critical program running for families already enrolled.

To learn more about legislation the Child Care Alliance has prioritized for the 2023 legislative session, follow the upcoming legislative session by signing up to receive regular updates from Nguyen’s office through her website: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/nguyen>.

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About The Child Care Alliance:



Child Care Alliance

The Oregon Child Care Alliance brings the expertise and advocacy of lawmakers, labor unions, businesses, and other community partners. to advance policies and investments that increase equitable access to quality and culturally relevant child care, and that fairly compensates the child care workforce for the critical work they do. In collaborating on the shared vision of increasing access to affordable child care in Oregon, the Alliance identifies priorities prior to each legislative session, connects the community with valuable resources, and advocates for policies and resources devoted to child care.