



Office of Senator Elizabeth Steiner

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Child Care Workforce and Availability Bills Pass Oregon Senate**

**SALEM, Ore.** - Today, Senate Democrats passed [House Bill 2991](#) and [House Bill 3005](#) to break down barriers and expand access to high quality child care and early learning. These bills will help Oregon grow our child care workforce and make it easier for childcare programs to open and expand.

HB 2991 will help to identify and break down barriers for child care workers, by directing the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to study and identify barriers to a high-quality early childhood workforce and convene a stakeholder group to provide recommendations to the Legislature regarding compensation and career development to build a robust early childhood workforce.

HB 3005 will increase the availability of child care by creating a grant and loan program within the Oregon Business Development Department (Business Oregon) to provide financial assistance to help build and open new child care programs. Across Oregon, the costs to open, operate and expand child care services are too high for many providers. This financial boost will make it easier for new programs to open and existing programs to expand.

“Ensuring Oregon families have access to high-quality, affordable child care is critical for the social, emotional, and educational development of our children. We must break down barriers for Oregonians wishing to open, operate, and expand child care centers, and provide meaningful career pathways for early childhood educators,” said **Senator Elizabeth Steiner (D - NW Portland)**.

Supporting the education workforce and providing Oregonians with high quality education from cradle to career is a key component of [Senate Democrats' 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

HB 2991 and HB 3005 are some of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, they now move to the Governor's desk for consideration.

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