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To whom it may concern:

The childcare industry in Oregon has been in a crisis since before the COVID-19 pandemic. I gave public testimony on June 24th about a variety of issues. Unfortunately all of those issues are still negatively impacting the child care industry as a whole. Why has Oregon not taken any action against this issues? It is impossible for our economy to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic if women can't go back to work and women can't go back to work if they don't have childcare for their children.

I have consistently received 2-3 inquires per week for the past 6 months of parents looking for childcare, specifically infant care. I currently have 16 infants on my waitlist and many of them haven't been born yet. Who is going to care for the next generation of children? Why isn't Oregon using any and all resources to their disposal to increase the availability of childcare to families?

I hope to have the opportunity to speak with you directly during your meeting on October 26th to address these issues, and much more.

Sincerely,

Anna Pickel Owner, Happy Go Lucky Childcare