

*For our newest members to The BFD Report, welcome! As a supporter you can expect this monthly newsletter highlighting the important work you helped make happen.*

# THE BFD REPORT



from Family Forward Action

Friend,

WHEW! That's a wrap. Oregon's legislative session ended on Saturday, June 26. We have so much to celebrate and a few things we need to fight for harder than ever. We're also marching ahead advocating for the policies we need at the federal level. Everything you need to know below!

## YOUR WINS

- **WE PASSED OUR PRIORITY BILL ON CHILD CARE!** HB 3073 will help make Oregon's public child care system more accessible and affordable for parents and beneficial for providers. Learn more below!
- **We passed 11 out of 14 of our priority bills total!** This was only possible because mothers, caregivers, and community leaders like YOU sent lawmakers over 1,000 emails and made hundreds of phone calls.
- **Our Executive Director, Andrea Paluso, was invited to participate in a call with Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh** and advocates across the country working on care and supporting the care economy. Photos below!
- Thanks to your advocacy, the majority of Oregon's Congressional delegates signed onto a letter calling for a **\$700B investment in child care!**

# YOUR IMPACT

WE DID IT! Oregon's 2021 legislative session is officially over and we passed HB 3073, our priority bill on child care! This is a historic and landmark victory and wouldn't have been possible without YOU.

**HB 3073 was a critical first step in building the type of system we really want to see:** one that prioritizes the needs of BIPOC providers, families, and kids and ensures that every Oregon family has access to high quality, affordable, and culturally relevant child care, and that every child care provider is paid a wage that reflects the essential work they do.

**We were able to pass 11 out of 14 of our priority bills together this Legislative session.** That's a BFD!

## Here's what we won:

### **Child Care for Oregon ([HB 3073](#))**

HB 3073 will provide immediate and long-term relief to Oregon's most vulnerable families in need of child care by establishing the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) as an independent agency, incorporating and making reforms to Oregon's public child care program, the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program, and creating more financial stability for providers and parents—including low-income and single parent families, and BIPOC mothers and caregivers.

### **Expansion of our child care subsidy program ([SB 5529](#)) & an increase of over 4,000 preschool slots across the state ([SB 5513](#))**

As part of the Oregon Early Childhood Coalition, we fought for \$75 million in new investments to fund expansions such as 4,000+ new preschool slots across the state and an increase to the Early Childhood Equity Fund to support the creation of new culturally responsive preschool options.

### **Ending suspension/expulsion in early learning ([HB 2166](#)/[SB 236](#))**

Young children, including infants and toddlers, are being suspended or expelled from early childhood programs, such as preschool or child care. National data shows that Black children, Native children, and children who experience disabilities are asked to leave at disproportionately higher rates than other children. We joined our partners at the Oregon Early Childhood Coalition to pass legislation that supports early childhood educators to build

the skills that allow all children to thrive, such as anti-bias training and infant-toddler-early childhood mental health consultation and ends all suspensions and expulsions by July 1, 2026.

#### **Family Preservation Project ([SB 720](#))**

SB 720 provides sufficient and stable funding to the Family Preservation Project at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, which has made an impact for thousands of Oregon mothers and families by providing services to help incarcerated women and their children overcome cycles of poverty, trauma, and intergenerational involvement in the criminal justice system.

#### **Sanctuary Promise Act ([HB 3265](#))**

Immigrant and refugee Oregonians will have stronger protections under the Sanctuary Promise Act (HB 3265), which will protect Oregonians from racial profiling and ensure that local police and resources will not be used for federal immigration enforcement.

#### **Healthy Homes ([HB 2842](#))**

HB 2842 will create a new Healthy Homes repair fund at the Oregon Health Authority which will invest in home repairs for low-income renters and homeowners to improve energy efficiency and safety while driving down heating and cooling costs. Funding may also be used for smoke filtration and other fire resilience improvements. This is a huge step forward in advancing environmental justice for our communities.

#### **Mental Health Workforce Diversity Act ([HB 2949](#))**

Oregon is consistently ranked one of the worst states in the country when it comes to access to mental health care and fewer than one-in-five mental health care providers in the state are people of color. HB 2949 will start to remedy this issue by awarding a historic \$80M to the Oregon Health Authority to develop an effective BIPOC mental health workforce pipeline through loan forgiveness, awarding retention bonuses, and paying for supervision costs. The bill also directs additional funding to community mental health programs to individuals who are being reintegrated into the community following incarceration, and undocumented immigrants who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Expansion of sick time for construction workers ([SB 588](#))**

Having access to paid sick time is a critical equity issue. This bill closes gaps in previous legislation, ensuring more of us can prosper, take care of our families, and keep our jobs. It ensures that the protections that we supported for so many other Oregonians when we created this historic protection for the majority of the workforce in 2015 are afforded to even more of us.

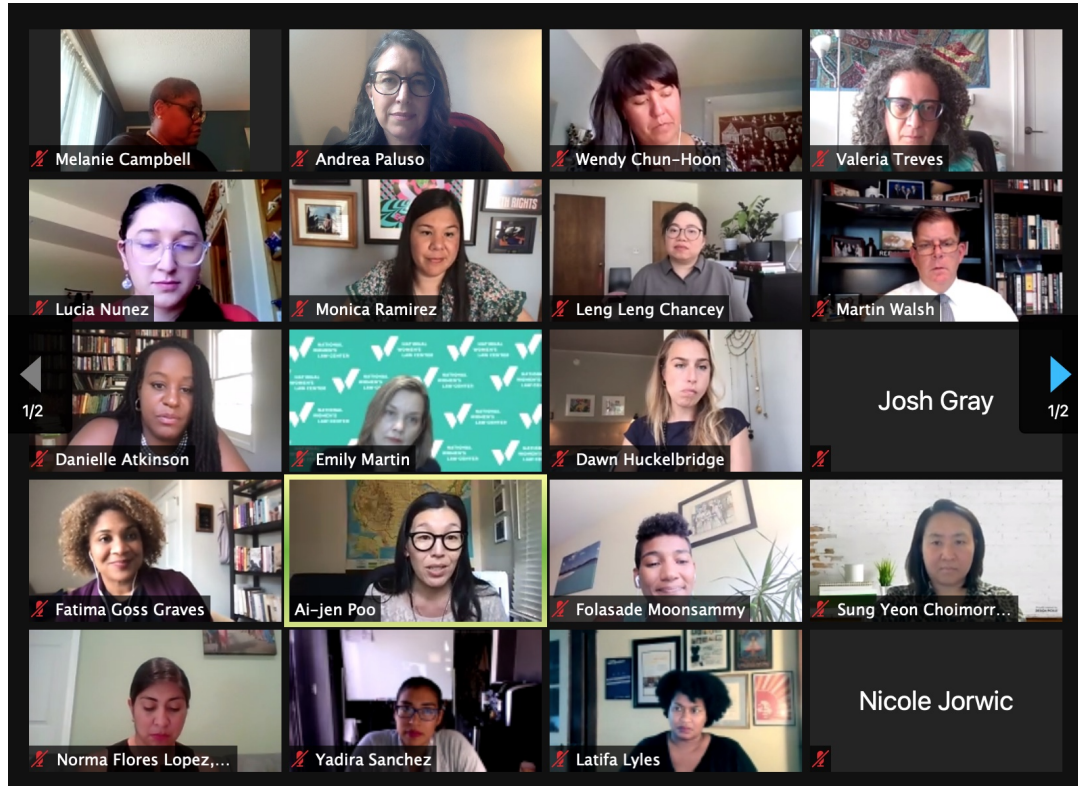
#### **OFLA Eligibility Expansion ([HB 2474](#))**

HB 2474 makes sure that caregivers and those reentering the workforce are not at an even greater economic disadvantage from COVID-19 simply because they are unable to take job-protected unpaid leave. HB 2474 gets us closer to ensuring that all Oregonians can take unpaid job protected leave to take care of themselves and their families. It also updates our statute to be more reflective of Oregonians' lived experiences and families.

## What We're Still Fighting For...

Three of our priority bills that were rooted in racial and gender justice—Transforming Justice (HB 2002), Universal Legal Representation for Immigrant Oregonians (HB 3230), and Gender Responsiveness in Jails & Prisons (HB 3096)—didn't make it over the finish line. We will be continuing to fight alongside partners to transform Oregon's approach to community safety and criminal justice, and the legal rights our immigrant communities need and deserve. Read our statement as part of the Fair Shot for All coalition [here](#).

Now that our state legislative session has wrapped, we're moving full steam ahead into our **federal advocacy work**. Our Executive Director, Andrea Paluso, was recently invited to participate in a discussion with Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh about the need for investments in our national care economy.



*Our Executive Director, Andrea Paluso, (second from left in top row) on a call with Labor Secretary Marty Walsh and our national partners at Caring Across Generations, Paid Leave for All, NWLC, 9 to 5, Family Values @ Work, Mothering Justice, Poder Latinx, Times Up, Black Women's Roundtable and more.*

[Thanks to your recent advocacy](#), the majority of Oregon's Congressional delegates—including Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Jeff Merkley, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, Congressman Earl Blumenauer, and Congressman Peter DeFazio—have signed onto a letter calling for a historic **\$700B investment in child care by the federal government**. This investment will be critical to building the system we need in Oregon and a huge improvement from the \$21.5B / year we currently spend.

**This is our moment! And it wouldn't be happening without your support.**

That's a BFD.

Until next month,



Amy Hojnowski  
Development Director  
Family Forward Oregon & Family Forward Action

P.S. Forward this email to a friend you think is a BFD. And make sure you check out our [exciting new tote bags and face masks](#)—all proceeds support our work to pass the policies we need! And because your advocacy and support is a BFD to us, please use code BFDREPORT to get 10% off.

