

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.

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THE BFD REPORT



from Family Forward Action

Friend,

Hi! Andrea here. I'm taking over this month's BFD Report intro because I've been at this work for a long time now and I've never seen more momentum for passing the policies we need at the federal level. This moment is a BFD.

In the past weeks, Congress has been actively, routinely, and enthusiastically discussing paid leave, child care, expanding the child tax credit...stuff we've wanted them to talk about for a decade. The types of policies being discussed—real transformative investments—are what we've been fighting for together since 2009.

In a surprising move, the House committee actually voted a few weeks ago to advance an amendment to remove all income requirements for child care—making it universal. Of course, we haven't seen investments that would make that possible allocated yet, and there's a long way to go on the overall bill, but WOW. The discussions across the country and in D.C. are very different from what we're used to. It gives me real hope that what we'll get out of the Build Back Better Act will be truly transformative — if our allies can hold the line at a robust, bold, once-in-a-generation investment.

I am so proud of us. I am so proud of this movement.

And, we're not there yet. A handful of House & Senate members are making moves to dramatically decrease the power and scope of these investments in our families. **Right now, there are conversations happening in D.C. that could jeopardize some of the things we've been fighting for.** We simply have to keep at it. We're closer than we've ever been, but we are not across the finish line yet.

Information about how you can help + more wins powered by YOU below!



Andrea Paluso
Executive Director
Family Forward

YOUR WINS

- We're fighting hard to pass the #BuildBackBetter Act which includes historic investments in child care and paid leave; an expanded and permanent child tax credit; and so much more! This month nearly 200 of you have emailed Rep. Kurt Schrader and demanded his support for the policies our families need. [More here](#).
- Funds are here for child care providers thanks to your advocacy on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) earlier this year! COVID-19 Stabilization Grants are available to a wide range of providers. [Learn more here](#) and share with all the providers you know!
- We joined over 30 organizations and labor unions across the state in calling on Rep. Schrader to support the investments in the #BuildBackBetter Act, which our communities desperately need. [See the letter here](#)!
- [The first sentence of this report](#) from the U.S. Treasury is truly historic. We have a federal government that gets it, ya'll!
- We have two new board members! Welcome Zena Moore and Amy Donahue below.

YOUR IMPACT

The work we've done in Oregon has set the stage for meaningful investments at the federal level. The Build Back Better Act could be a bold effort to invest in the nation's infrastructure and labor force, and a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver transformative change that supports our families, workers, and communities—if we can hold the line.

The national paid leave program included in the Build Back Better Act reflects the principles in the one we fought to pass together in Oregon in 2019. The investments in child care—and the discussions happening around child care—reflect the values we’ve been yelling about for a decade. The U.S. Treasury just released a report titled [The Economics of Child Care Supply in the United States](#) that begins with the sentence “The child care sector is a crucial and underfunded part of the American economy.”

SO MUCH IS WITHIN OUR REACH. This is a BFD. Which makes it even more upsetting that Oregon’s own Congressman Kurt Schrader is trying to disrupt and derail our progress.

When we heard that Rep. Schrader wasn’t supporting the investments mothers and caregivers need included in the Build Back Better Act, we sounded the alarm. And wow, did you answer! **Nearly 200 of you have already emailed Rep. Schrader, and dozens more have called his office directly.** Lots of you have also engaged on social media. All of it is making an impact! **But we’re not done yet.** We need to keep constant pressure on Rep. Schrader. You can do so here: bit.ly/ContactSchrader.

Last but certainly not least, we’re growing our leadership team! Please join us in welcoming Amy Donahue and Zena Moore to our Family Forward board of directors. They both start tomorrow! You can read more about them below.

Our movement is making change. We’re really doing it.

That’s a BFD.

Until next month,

Amy Hojnowski
Development Director
Family Forward Oregon & Family Forward Action

P.S. Have you been thinking about joining our [Give Forward](#) team as a monthly donor? If you sign up to give a monthly gift of \$10 or more, you’ll get one of our “Caregiving is Essential” face masks! Give \$20 or more monthly, and you’ll score our limited edition “Moms for Justice” tote bag.

Meet Our New Board Members!

Zena Moore has been an active member of Family Forward's Action Team. She holds a Masters of Social Work from Portland State University with training in Practice and Leadership in Communities and Organizations. Zena is a chemical dependency counselor with Lifeworks NW and works closely with clients to believe in their success. Her long-term goal is to start a therapeutic practice which rebuilds the relationships between parents and their children.



Amy Donohue is a Principal with Bora Architecture & Interiors and has over twenty-five years of experience designing spaces for education, performance and collaborative work. Trained in Design Justice and Critical Race Theory, Amy has been instrumental in the creation of Bora's equity framework and action plan toward ending systemic racism. She is currently leading the firm's effort to co-develop workforce housing for young Black professionals in the AEC industry, seeking to grow the pipeline of diversity in the profession. Amy and her husband, architect Paul McKean, live in Portland with their two young daughters. In her free time, Amy enjoys reading, gardening and exercising with friends.



Dance Like a Mother is postponed until May 14, 2022!

Due to the rise of the Delta variant, we have made the decision to postpone our annual in-person fundraiser from this October until May 14, 2022 (save the date!). We're excited to come together and celebrate moms and caregivers with you next year.



The BFD Report is a monthly update for our donors and volunteer leaders. If you no longer wish to receive these updates, you can unsubscribe here: (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).

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