

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.

[See past BFD Reports here.](#)

Before we get into our BFD Report, we have an ask for you: send us your caregiving photos!

As one of our key supporters, we'd love to feature you in our year-end appeal letter. We're looking specifically for candid photos of you and your family during COVID while you balance work, virtual school, elder care, and parenting. Cell-phone quality is great! Email our Communications Director, [daniellealexander@familyforward.org](mailto:daniellealexander@familyforward.org) or reply to this email!

# THE BFD REPORT



from Family Forward Action

It's hard to believe that October is already over and we're closing in on the last two months of the year. Did school only start two months ago? With two school-aged kids, it all feels like one long *blursday*.

We've been having conversations in our [Movement for Mamas & Caregivers Facebook group](#) about our mental health and what has/hasn't helped these past 18 months (spoiler alert: continuing to go without the policies and support we've needed for years *during a pandemic* definitely hasn't helped).

I've been very glad for The BFD Report this year. Celebrating this movement and all of you gives me constant hope. I have seen our power in action and know that when we work together, we win.

Here's just a little proof of that:

## YOUR WINS

- We took our voices, stories, and demands *directly* to Rep. Kurt Schrader this past weekend. Details and photos below.
- A Build Back Better framework is out! There's A LOT to like but there's still a lot of work to be done to get this across the finish line. More on that below.

- Our team is growing! Thanks to your support, we were able to hire a Bilingual Communications Manager who will help us extend our reach and make our work more inclusive! You can learn all about her at the end of this email.
- We're halfway to our goal of reaching [100 Give Forward team members](#)! That means FIFTY of you have committed to powering our movement year-round with a monthly gift. THANK YOU!

# YOUR IMPACT



On Saturday, October 23, local moms and caregivers showed up at Rep. Kurt Schrader's offices in Salem and Oregon City to remind him that a future without child care, paid leave, and support for our families is too scary to imagine. For too long, Rep. Kurt Schrader has obstructed progress on the [Build Back Better Act](#) while our families have struggled through a pandemic.

We made it clear to Rep. Schrader that we need policies that truly support *all* families. It brought all of us real joy to be back together with you and your families (in a COVID safe way) and we can't wait to do it again!

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Our action came right in the nick of time, though. President Biden released the [Build Back Better Act's framework](#) this week and it includes a huge step towards our vision of a universal child care system, including historic investments in child care and universal preschool. \$400 billion is more than America has EVER spent on child care, and gives us reason to have hope about finally being able to develop the system we need, one that supports parents, providers, and our kids.

BUT, as of now, it also excludes a national paid family and medical leave program! Even though we've already passed 12 weeks of paid leave in Oregon you can count on us to keep fighting for all families across the country to have this same essential care support. Stay tuned for ways to make your voice heard for the strongest Build Back Better possible!

It's been a rollercoaster of a week and I'm celebrating each and every one of you. I know it's not easy to be a mom or caregiver and also still *care* about all of this stuff. But you do.

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.

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## Meet our newest Family Forward team member!

**Meet Francisca!** Francisca is originally from San Bernardino County in Southern California but has called Portland home for nearly a decade. She's worked with the City of Portland and Causa, Oregon's immigrants rights organization.



She's passionate about strategic planning, advocating for better social support systems, and for more equitable outcomes. She looks forward to bringing that drive to ensure all Oregonian families can thrive. Outside of work, Francisca is dedicated to increasing bike accessibility and making sure women of color are able to enjoy the outdoors.

## **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.

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