

*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.](#)

# THE BFD REPORT



from Family Forward Action

Friend,

Welcome to 2022! We're glad to be here with you and happy to share our first BFD Report of the year.

We're gearing up for a busy month in February! Oregon's legislative session starts on February 1 and goes through March 7, 2022. Every other year, Oregon has a "short session" like this instead of a longer six month session like we had last year. Lawmakers meet to pass new laws and approve our state budget.

[Thanks to your support, we are championing a big agenda in the legislature](#) in the next month. Moms and caregivers can't keep navigating this pandemic without meaningful and permanent support. And since things are stalled out on the federal level for now, we need our state leaders to step up and fight for Oregon families.

Read on for all the ways we've been making progress together!

# YOUR WINS

- We have a robust [legislative agenda for 2022](#), including a request for a historic \$100 million in child care that will make big impacts for Oregon families and child care providers. The first hearing on our bill is scheduled for February 2! More info below.
- We launched our new [Caregivers Connect](#) coffee chats in our Movement for Mamas & Caregivers Facebook group on January 18! It was so lovely that we've decided to make it a regular thing. The next one is happening tomorrow! [You can view it here](#).
- As part of the Child Care for Oregon coalition, we connected providers to [a statewide survey](#) about the economic and health impacts of the pandemic on child care workers. Over 200 providers and workers took the survey, and the results were used to create our priority bill on child care this year!
- We hosted our first [Mental Health Listening Session](#) on Thursday, January 20 and had 15 mothers and caregivers attend and share their input on what it will take to create a mental health care system that really works for our families. More below!

# YOUR IMPACT

As always, I've never been more inspired by our movement and the way this community comes together to make progress. This is an extremely hard time for mothers and caregivers—I know many of you reading this

have been experiencing school and care closures, COVID in your immediate family, and all the stress that living without the essential supports we need brings. I've been in awe of how this community takes care of each other, makes space for grief, and keeps on fighting.

[Our legislative agenda for 2022 reflects that.](#) Together we will advocate that our state lawmakers step up and provide the essential supports we need, including a child care system in Oregon that prioritizes affordability, high quality care, and living wages for caregivers. As always, we will center those who are most impacted by past and current inequities in policy making and advocacy, and that's all thanks to you.

We've also found ways to be together and give each other strength during this time. Our Caregivers Coffee Chat and Mental Health Listening Sessions launched in January, and based on the enthusiasm for these events, they're now going to be a regular part of how we continue to fight for the policies we need. Taking time to grieve, vent, and be together is crucial to our work right now and we're so glad to be doing it with you.

That's a BFD.

Until next month,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Hojnowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being the most prominent part.

Amy Hojnowski  
Development Director  
Family Forward Oregon & Family Forward Action

---

## Dance Like a Mother is May 14, 2022!

We're excited to come together and celebrate moms and caregivers with you. More details coming soon!

---



Family Forward  
PO Box 15146  
Portland, OR 9729

### Join the movement.

[Make a gift](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Share your story](#)

[Take action](#)