

# 2022 Policy Wins for Oregon Moms & Caregivers



## Strengthened our public child care system (HB 4005)

Increases the amount of money providers who accept Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) subsidies receive per child, getting to more equitable rates; this will also increase purchasing power for parents who utilize ERDC. Rate increases go into effect on June 1, 2022.



## Provided emergency response for Oregon's child care crisis (Child Care Emergency Response Package)

- Provides \$21 million for direct relief payments of \$500 each to currently-working child care workers, one payment in 2022 and one in 2023
- Ensures \$39.3 million to recruit and train new child care providers, and provide direct grants to expand existing facilities of all types
- Grants \$3.6M for the Department of Early Learning & Care to make our public child care system more equitable and beneficial for parents and providers



## Ensured equity in Paid Family & Medical Leave implementation (SB 1515)

Clarified the state and employers' definitions for "benefit year" to ensure they aligned and makes it easier for workers to access PFML. The process will now be more efficient and better cover workers with multiple employers.



## Improved outcomes for incarcerated women and mothers (HB 4146)

Women are the fastest growing population in state and federal prisons. This bill establishes a trauma-informed and gender responsive assessment at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, and a gender responsive coordinator to oversee this work. By strengthening gender-responsive programming in prisons, Oregon can reduce incarceration and recidivism and improve outcomes for women and their families.



## Payments to low income families (HB 4157)

Low income workers in our state, especially women and mothers of color have been critical to Oregon's infrastructure. While our broader economy has made strong gains, inflation and the cost of living have increased and working families need support to keep pace and pay for essential needs. HB 4157 provides eligible individuals a one time payment of \$600 by check or direct deposit. Some may receive their payments as early as June 2022, if they have claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit on their 2020 income tax returns by April 1, 2022



## Passed overtime pay for Oregon's farmworkers (HB 4002)

This bill finally ends the exclusion of farmworkers from Oregon's overtime laws. This exclusion is part of the shameful legacy of racism as legislators from the South explicitly pointed out the "racial question" involved in overtime wages to farmworkers. Starting in 2023, farmworkers will start earning overtime pay after 55 hours of work, and over the next few years overtime pay will begin after 40 hours of work like other Oregon workers.

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## Ensured legal representation for immigrant Oregonians facing deportation (SB 1543)

Universal Legal Representation advances due process and access to justice for immigrant Oregonians by providing culturally sensitive, free immigration legal services to income-qualified Oregonians facing deportation. The program will have a major impact on access to legal support for immigrant Oregonians, and is likely to notably decrease unjust deportations in Oregon.



## Continued to transform our justice system so we can all feel safe (SB 1510)

Oregon can only be safe when our public safety system is designed to keep all of us safe. By passing SB 1510, we're one step closer to creating a public safety system that truly provides justice and safety to all. This bill reduces unnecessary interactions with law enforcement that increase risks of excessive force and violence, improve success for people on probation and parole, and fund services that reduce racial disparities prevalent in Oregon's criminal justice system.

## What we're still fighting for...

To build a more equitable Oregon where everyone can thrive, we need a legislature that is representative of the communities currently facing the biggest barriers. Yet currently in Oregon, state legislators receive shockingly low annual salaries that do not reflect a living wage, which discourages Oregonians who are low-income, young, BIPOC, and caregivers to run for office.

In 2022, we fought to pass SB 1566 to raise legislator wages and provide a child care stipend for lawmakers. This policy wasn't passed, and without the promise of adequate support, three champions for mothers and caregivers—Reps. Anna William, Karin Power, and Rachel Prusak—are not planning to run for election.

We **MUST** increase wages for legislators in the next legislative session and look forward to fighting for that change so that we can see more diverse representation in our state's capitol.



## Our Movement

Family Forward Oregon is a feminist, anti-racist, grassroots advocacy organization that fights for systems and public policies that value the work of caregiving and directly support mothers and caregivers.

Learn more: [familyforwardoregon.org](https://familyforwardoregon.org)

