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THE BFD REPORT



from Family Forward Action

{{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

We made it! Happy 2023! We have a MAJOR VICTORY to celebrate.

YOUR WINS

Thanks to moms and caregivers like you across the country sharing their stories and voicing their demands, **Congress just increased the national budget for child care AND passed the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and the PUMP Act.** Read on for what that means for us!

YOUR IMPACT

Oregon's Senator Ron Wyden is currently the Chair of Senate Finance – a position that holds a lot of power! Because we've worked closely with Sen. Wyden for years, and because so many of you reached out to him personally, we knew he could count on him to fight for moms and caregivers. We also have strong champions in Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, Senator Jeff Merkley, and Reps. Blumenauer and DeFazio. **Over 100 of you sent passionate emails to Oregon's members of Congress,** urging them to fight tooth and nail for the investments in child care and other supports parents and caregivers desperately need.

AND IT WORKED! The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act will close a gap in our nation's civil rights law and ensure millions of pregnant workers and working moms can receive reasonable accommodations like light duty, additional breaks, transfers, and time off to recover from childbirth, to prevent serious health complications and keep their jobs. The PUMP Act will ensure millions more workers are guaranteed the right to break time and space to express milk at work to feed their children.

Congress also voted to increase the national budget for child care by \$2.8 billion which means that **Oregon will be seeing an additional \$25 million for our state's subsidized child care program (Employment Related Daycare or ERDC) and an additional \$10 million for Head Start.**

While this is definitely not everything we need to fund the universal child care program with good wages for providers that we all want and need, it's a huge start! After over a decade of determined and focused effort, **we have successfully started shifting the national narrative around child care.**

That's a BFD.



Amy Hojnowski
Development Director & Mom of Two
Family Forward Action

P.S. Oregon's state legislative session starts mid-January and we have a lot planned, including fighting for state investments that will make child care more accessible and affordable; stabilizing our child care workforce by creating equitable workforce pathways and increasing compensation; and expanding early childhood and child care facilities.

Make sure you'd signed up to advocate for these changes and other policies that will make the work of caregiving seen and valued: familyforwardaction.org/volunteer



{{Disclaimer}}

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