

*Welcome to the BFD Report! 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

{{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Movement work is hard work. We've always been an organization that has put long-term, values-driven campaigns before any short-term, transactional wins. Progress can feel really, really slow sometimes. That's why it's so important to us that we celebrate the wins!

And it's really exciting to us that right now, the wins seem to be happening more and faster than ever. The change we've been saying we want to see is really happening! Our paid family and medical leave program goes into effect this September. Direct financial support to help stabilize Oregon's child care workforce is available. Our state-subsidized child care program (ERDC) is now available to more families, with fewer restrictions. We still have a lot of work to do, but it's incredible to think about how far we've come.

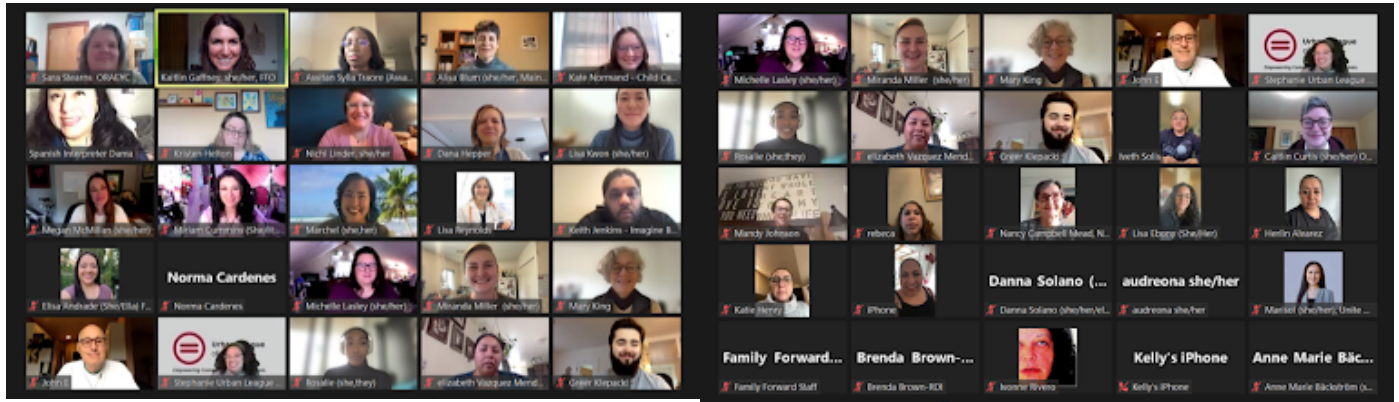
Over ten years ago, we set out to change the way people see and value caregiving. All the hard work (and the tough losses we've endured together) have been worth it to see some of the wins that happened this month alone. We're so grateful to do and celebrate this work with YOU!

# YOUR WINS

- Governor Tina Kotek named [child care as a priority in her inaugural address](#) and has included \$100 million in her [budget](#) to increase wages for daycare and child care workers. This is a huge win for us and sets a very positive tone as we engage in advocacy for our full Care Agenda this year. Our agenda also has the support of a [diverse set of allies](#) and [growing bipartisan support](#) in the legislature.
- [The Child Care Capacity Grant Fund](#) launched on Monday, 2/6! We worked together to secure these funds during the 2022 legislative session after hearing from providers that what they need most is financial support that is easy to access and doesn't come with a lot of strings attached. Read on for how we made it happen and how to apply!
- On Monday, 2/20, over 40 parents, providers, and advocates participated in our [Child Care for Oregon](#) (Virtual) Lobby Day! Pictures below.
- [Preschool for All: Multnomah County](#) is serving more kids than anticipated and the tax raised 50% more than expected last year. More on why and what that means below!
- President Biden [named CHILD CARE as a top priority](#) during his State of the Union Address. This was only possible because of years of organizing and advocacy by parents, caregivers, and providers.



# YOUR IMPACT



*Photo ID: Two Zoom screens featuring participants at our 2023 Child Care for Oregon (Virtual) Lobby Day Kick-Off on Monday, February 20.*

**Thanks to your support and advocacy, real change is happening.** On Monday, 2/20, parents, providers, and community leaders from across the state met one-on-one with state lawmakers to share what it’s been like to experience Oregon’s child care crisis and [the solutions we want lawmakers to prioritize](#). Later that same day, 10 parents, providers, and advocates participated in a public hearing on three of our priority bills. If you weren’t able to participate and want to share your experience, you can still do so by visiting [childcarefororegon.org/action](http://childcarefororegon.org/action).

**We know when we work together, we win big.** During the 2022 legislative session, we passed nearly \$100M together to stabilize and expand Oregon’s child care workforce and prepare our infrastructure for future federal investments. This package included the [Child Care Capacity Building Grant Fund](#), which officially launched on Monday, 2/6. This new grant fund was designed by providers for providers. The support and advocacy of thousands of moms, parents, providers, and caregivers who contacted their lawmakers, advocated online, and donated made this possible! Learn more and apply here: [oregonchildcarefunds.org](http://oregonchildcarefunds.org)

Preschool for All (designed by and for real moms, parents, and providers) raised 50% more than expected in 2022 because the wealthiest taxpayers in Multnomah County did especially well last year (taxing the rich works!). Meanwhile, Preschool for All is serving nearly 700 kids in its first year, higher

than the expected 500 student first-year enrollment. That's caregiver power.



We also watched as President Biden named affordable child care as a national priority during his State of the Union address earlier this month. Lots of members of Congress, including Oregon's Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, also wore crayons on their jackets to symbolize that child care is a top priority for them. This is a really big deal! We've never seen national energy like this around child care, and it wouldn't be happening if people like you weren't fighting tooth and nail.

That's a BFD.



Amy Hojnowski  
Development Director & Mom of Two  
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{{Disclaimer}}

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