

THE BFD REPORT

 from Family Forward Action

Welcome to the BFD report! As a supporter you can expect this monthly newsletter highlighting the important work you helped make happen.

[View past BFD Reports here.](#)

[FIRST NAME OR FRIEND],

I don't know about you, but the team here at Family Forward is feeling major whiplash that April has already come and gone. (How is that possible?) We have had a whirlwind of a month and we are so grateful for your continued support to buoy us through.

The 2023 legislative session is more than half over and our team is leveraging every opportunity to elevate the importance of funding child care as our elected leaders debate all the policy proposals before them this year.

When the Joint Ways and Means Committee announced they would hold a Roadshow – a series of town halls around the state to hear constituent concerns and priorities related to the Oregon's budget – our team got to work organizing community members to follow the Roadshow along the way. There's nothing more impactful than when someone with personal experience speaks truth to power and demands their elected representative take action. Our staff and volunteer leaders testified in person at the Portland, Newport, and Ontario town halls and many submitted written testimony as well.

This is the critical work that our organizing and political teams are doing every day. Supporting our community of mamas and caregivers to share their story and make an impact. Through grassroots organizing, our volunteer leaders are growing their political skills and building broad support for our policy priorities - and together we are holding our elected leaders accountable to all of us.

YOUR WINS

- On Tuesday, April 18, 2023, [President Biden signed an Executive Order \(EO\)](#) that contains more than 50 directives to support child care, home-based care,

family caregivers and long-term care. The EO sets out a number of goals to lower costs, increase wages, and engage parents and providers impacted by our child care system. 🙌

- We passed [Senate Bill 999 by a vote of 25-4!](#) This bill will expand the definition of “family” in Oregon’s family leave law (OFLA) and in Oregon’s sick days law to align with the expanded definition that we passed within our historic Paid Family and Medical Leave law in 2019. This is a huge win for all families! The bill now moves to the House. 📣
- We attended the [Ways and Means Roadshow](#) — where 6 of our volunteer leaders testified in person about their experiences with our failed child care system and 16 more submitted written testimony. 🚗
- We will participate May 3rd at the final stop of the roadshow to remind lawmakers, once again, that they need to prioritize child care and to tell them to [pass the People’s Budget](#). With over \$2 BILLION in reserves, state lawmakers have the funds to make critical investments in housing, child care, health care, and so much more and now is the time to make those investments. 📣 [Sign up HERE to add your voice](#).
- Our [Sr. Political Director was invited to participate](#) in Senator Wyden’s Roundtable where Governor Kotek, Congresswoman Bonamici, and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Raimondo discussed the [CHIPS Act](#) and the role of child care and paid leave in Oregon’s economic development. 📣
- Our [Policy and Campaigns Manager Kaitlin Gaffney testified](#) in support of SJR-33, referring the Equal Rights Amendment ballot measure to the November 2024 ballot. The measure would amend our state constitution to codify the right to abortion, gender affirming care, strengthen our non-discrimination laws, and remove mention of one-man-one-woman in our marriage statute. 👥
- Our sister organization, [The Mother PAC, endorsed Ana del Rocio for Multnomah County Commissioner](#). Ana is a former board member and long-time partner and ally to Family Forward Action and The Mother PAC. We are thrilled to support her candidacy. The special election is on May 16 in Multnomah County, look out for your ballots and [support Ana!](#) 🗳️

YOUR IMPACT

With everything moving so quickly right now, it is important to pause and acknowledge how we got here. We are seeing first-hand right now how Family Forward’s 14 years of labor and leadership in this movement has built the power our collective movement holds today. One clear example of that connection from past to the present is with SB 999, which passed the Senate last week.

SB 999 improves upon our past workplace equity laws by incorporating the newer

family definition from our 2019 Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance bill. This is a huge win for all families in Oregon! The bill expands the definition of “family” beyond nuclear family members and includes chosen family - extending benefits and job protections to multi-generational families, LGBTQ families, or any chosen family member. While we tried many times over the last 10 years to include this expansion recognizing all of the ways families come to be, we didn’t have the collective power until this year.

Now, in 2023, after almost 15 years of laying the groundwork with thousands of hours of organizing and work to change perceptions and policies, we passed SB 999, which will apply the new the definition of family to the Paid Sick Days bill we passed in 2015 and to the Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA). This is the movement we are building together! Fighting for bold policies and electing the leaders we need while holding tight to our vision of an Oregon that cares about caregiving and all the people that provide it.

That’s a BFD.



Amy Hojnowski
Development Director
Family Forward Action

P.S. We have a few days left for candidates to apply to become our next Executive Director. Please [share this opportunity](#) with anyone in your world that you think should be the next visionary leader for Family Forward Action.

Make a gift

Volunteer

Share your story

Take action
