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January 26, 2023

Hon. Strom Peterson, Chair and Members
House Committee on Housing
John L. O'Brien Bldg.,
P.O. Box 40600,
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

To Hon. Chair Peterson and Committee Members,

I write today in support of House Bill 1199 addressing licensed childcare in common interest communities and urge the Chair and Committee to vote in support of this bill.

There is a critical need for additional childcare options throughout Washington State. Reducing restrictions and limitations on the siting of childcare facilities will increase the available options for available childcare services. More widely available and convenient childcare benefit everyone but will provide a special benefit to parents with limited resources.

Finding convenient, affordable childcare provides the basis for many job seekers to enter the workforce and is a critical component of quality jobs. To highlight this need, the Port of Seattle Commission passed my amendment on January 24, 2023 adding childcare advocacy to the Port's State Legislative Agenda.

The passage of this bill will provide equitable benefits to our workforce. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hamdi Mohamed".

Hamdi Mohamed
Commissioner