

March 21, 2013

RE: Employment Related Day Care Budget (SB 5529)

Co-Chairs Nathanson and Bates, Members of the Committee:

My name is Portia Moye, and I am a child care provider for my daughter through the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program.

The ERDC program is so important for both the kids and the parents. It enables parents to work and support their families, without having to rely on cash assistance. Most parents want to be independent and support their families, and the ERDC program helps them do that.

If you make cuts to our funding, it leaves our children out there with no one to take care of them. It is scary for the children and for the parents who have to worry about whether or not they will continue to have child care through the ERDC program.

Without the child care that I provide, my daughter would not be able to support her family. But ERDC allows me to provide care, and allows my daughter to work.

In recent years, ERDC has been cut time and again. And providers haven't had a rate increase for seven years. This meant fewer families could access the program, and fewer and fewer care providers could afford to watch children. If cuts continue to this program, we will continue to see families relying on other state programs to get by. Subsidies should be the priority when dispersing federal child care money because we can't afford to keep cutting this important program.

Please help Oregonians get back to work by supporting the ERDC program through any means possible. Thank you.

Portia Moye
Portland, Oregon