



*Hundreds of Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,  
Prosecutors, other Law Enforcement  
Leaders, and Violence Survivors  
Preventing Crime and Violence*

February 9, 2015

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Piluso, Vice Chair Stark,  
Representative Buehler, Representative Evans, Representative Hayden  
Representative Parrish, Representative Taylor  
Oregon House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Salem, Oregon

On behalf of the 175 law enforcement leaders who are members of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Oregon, I'm writing to express **support for the expansion and quality improvements of Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) in House Bill 2015**. The members of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Oregon are committed to evidence-based crime prevention strategies that help kids get the best start in life. This bill offers a way to expand and improve worthwhile, data-proven approaches that support the mission of law enforcement and other community leaders.

**We support:**

- The implementation of **one-year protected eligibility** for low-income working families, which provides certainty and consistency to families.
- Restoring the **eligibility of self-employed families** to receive child care subsidies.
- **Expanding eligibility to students** who meet all other eligibility requirements for ERDC to receive child care subsidies for attending and participating in coursework.
- **Pilot incentives** linking ERDC to the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) allowing a parent to pay a reduced co-pay and enhancing reimbursements for a high quality QRIS provider.
- Requiring the ELD and DHS to **implement a quality improvement system** for license-exempt family child care providers.
- Empowering the Office of Child Care to **perform monitoring for health and safety** for exempt providers.

All of the proposed changes in HB 2015 go to quality improvement of child care and most important to law enforcement, improved safety of children.

In addition to safety, numerous research studies show that quality early childhood investments can help prepare children for life and prevent crime in our communities. Quality early childhood programs also save money, with recent estimates showing a return on investment of approximately \$25,000 per child served. When we support parents seeking consistent, high-quality child care, we are not only making sure kids get the right start—we're ensuring the success and safety of the greater community. The bill would make sure that investments are used for programs that meet high expectations and benchmarks. It would ensure the state gets the best return on its investment.

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Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a membership organization of law enforcement leaders and crime victims under the umbrella non-profit Council for a Strong America

The unmet need for quality child care is tremendous, with more than 1,600 families waiting for access to services. This important legislation will ensure these integral programs serve more children and for us, more children served translate in to safer communities both now and in the future.

Recognize that we are currently paying – in staggering criminal justice costs alone – for the previous failure to prioritize investments in approaches that give our kids, at the youngest stages of development, the ability to become contributing members of society. Programs that connect children to caring adults and provide quality environments while parents are at work and during critical hours when supervision is so important are some of the most powerful tools for preventing crime.

One way or another, we pay for at-risk kids. Either we pay on the front end by providing adequate and safe care or we pay a lot more later for their failure. **We ask you to support not only adequate funding for ERDC, but for the quality improvements in HB 2015.**

Sincerely,



Martha Brooks  
State Director

C: House Speaker Tina Kotek  
House Minority Leader Mike McLane  
Governor John Kitzhaber  
Interim Director Megan Irwin, Early Learning Division  
Director Erinn Kelley-Siel, Department of Human Services