

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Chuck Sheketoff, executive director

DATE: February 9, 2015

RE: Support of House Bill 2015

The Oregon Center for Public Policy supports HB 2015.

The Employment Related Day Care program (ERDC) is vital for thousands of low-income working families who struggle with affording the child care they need to stay in the workforce.

The ERDC program regrettably has never been adequately funded, and as such:

- The program serves too few families who need and qualify for the program.
- The co-payments (co-pays) that families must contribute have gone up in cost.
- The subsidy levels are at times not adequate so families are forced to pay more than just the required co-pay or to go without care.
- The program's provider rates are not adequate to ensure both quality care and successful child care provider businesses.

Each of these problems could be cured by this bill if it is adequately funded when the bill gets the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Center hopes your committee will support the policy goals embodied in HB 2015 and become advocates for the funding necessary to implement them when the bill gets to the Committee on Ways and Means.