



April 5th, 2017

Co-Chair Steiner Hayward & Co-Chair Rayfield  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Human Services  
900 Court St. - State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Steiner Hayward & Co-Chair Rayfield, members of the committee. For the record my name is Elvyss Argueta and I'm a Political Organizer for SEIU local 503 representing Child Care providers also known as Regulated Subsidy Providers or Friends Family Neighbor providers in the Employment Related Day Care program.

I'm here in support of the DHS budget which will help continue to fund vital programs like Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) and help low-income working families pay for child care at a time when Oregon ranks towards the bottom in child care affordability.

ERDC provides support to Oregon families by making sure child care is not a barrier on the path to stable employment. Oregon is currently only serving around 16% of the eligible families in the ERDC program. The program is vital to families accessing the program and can be a turning point in achieving self-sufficiency who otherwise might not have that opportunity.

New unfunded federal regulations have also enhanced the need for resources for ERDC in the last year. The need for more and substantial investments in the rearing of Oregon's children from birth to graduation will make a positive impact in the lives of working Oregonians.

The legislature needs to raise revenue in order to build a system that sets a high bar in services for children and doesn't pit programs against each other, but rather complement each other's role in children's development.

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