



February 26th, 2019

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

Co-Chair Beyer & Co-Chair Nosse, members of the committee. For the record my name is Elvyss Argueta and I'm a Political and Electoral Strategist for SEIU local 503. Our union proudly represents Child Care providers in the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program .

We are in support of HB 5026, which can help continue to fund vital programs 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.

Families in Oregon deserve access to high quality and affordable child care, no matter if you live in an urban setting or a rural community. Unfortunately, many families around the state are experiencing a child care crisis, as nearly all of it is classified as a 'child care desert'. Oregon can help grow access by increasing the amount allocated for child care subsidy in the ERDC program.

SEIU believes that all parents should have the opportunity to afford high-quality care for their child and have a well-compensated child care workforce that can meet the needs of all children and their families. We look forward to working together to make this a reality.

Sincerely,
Elvyss Argueta

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
LOCAL 503

PO Box 12159
Salem, OR 97309-1259

1730 Commercial St. SE
Salem, OR 97302

6401 SE Foster Rd.
Portland, OR 97206

1.800.452.2146
www.seiu503.org