



March 6th, 2019

Co-Chair Frederick & Co-Chair McLain
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education
900 Court St. - State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Frederick & Co-Chair McLain, 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 5015, which can help continue to support vital programs like 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 8,000 Oregon families and makes sure that 15,000 children receive care, thereby removing a barrier on the path to stable employment for parents. Oregon is currently only serving around 16% of the eligible families in the ERDC program and has an opportunity to serve more. The program is vital to underserved parents who are seeking stability through employment, and can be a turning point in achieving self-sufficiency for those 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 the state is classified as a 'child care desert'. Oregon can help by increasing the support for families and investing child care subsidies in the ERDC program.

SEIU believes that all parents should have the opportunity to afford high-quality care for their child and to 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

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