

April 24th, 2021

To: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
From: Hannah Kullberg  
Re: Childcare funding

Dear Co-Chairs Betsy Johnson, Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, and Dan Rayfield,

My name is Hannah Kullberg and I live in Milwaukie, OR. I am a single mother of two children, 4 & 6. I have been using ERDC for two years. It was a godsend for me when my income shifted drastically & quickly. It enabled me to pivot & rebuild my business income while continuing to work my part-time job. I would not have been able to stay in the workforce without ERDC.

During the pandemic my income shifted again to nearly zero. Without the waiver of co-pay, well, I really don't know what I would have done. Before ERDC, again as a single mother, I was putting the bulk of my income into daycare. Meanwhile, I was going further and further into debt. Barely staying afloat of payments. I finally had to claim bankruptcy because it all got to be too much.

I do find that my in-home childcare provider who is amazing is not compensated enough and not compensated as much as the lower-quality preschool who was serving cheap, unhealthy food to my kids (giving my daughter a rash that is now permanent on her skin). Providers should be compensated for the true cost of providing quality child care so that this doesn't happen to other families.

Please consider working single mothers like myself during the budget decision process and protect ERDC funding.

Sincerely,  
Hannah Kullberg