

February 15th, 2021

To: The House Early Childhood Committee

From: Hannah Kullberg

Re: Support of HB 2503 and HB 3073

Dear Chair Karin Power and Vice-Chairs Lisa Reynolds & Jack Zika,

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.

Sincerely,  
Hannah Kullberg