

Submitter: Ashley Holbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB5514

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to highlight a critical issue affecting the childcare system in rural Oregon. As an RF childcare provider, I am struggling to fill three available openings due to the constraints imposed by the waitlist. Parents who require childcare services are unable to initiate or maintain their employment due to income constraints, despite being fully qualified for ERDC benefits. The waitlist has created a strain on my ability to fill available spots and has placed an undue burden on affected parents. These parents must seek alternative qualified providers with available openings, but such providers often cannot reserve spots until the waitlist is cleared. Additionally, it is challenging for me, as a provider, to require parents who qualify for ERDC benefits to pay out-of-pocket expenses, especially when they are struggling to meet basic needs. Even offering discounts is difficult due to increased costs of living, including rent, utilities, and food prices. I urge that federal funding be allocated to address this issue and remove families from the waitlist.

Sincerely, Ashley Holbert