

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Anonymous

Date: 4/7/2025

Co-Chair Tawna D. Sanchez, Co-Chair Kate Lieber and members of the the Committee

My name is [redacted] and I am a parent and community member from Salem Oregon.

As a parent, ERDC has been essential to my ability to work. Childcare is so expensive and finding work that accommodates a young child's schedule is difficult on its own, let alone being able to afford said care. The only way I'm able to work full time as a single mom is because I am lucky enough to qualify for assistance with childcare. Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to make ends meet at all.

Finding affordable, trusted, childcare is extremely difficult. Without the help of ERDC, I would have to find care that is much cheaper and likely wouldn't be as secure, safe, or provide the level of care that I currently get.

As a childcare teacher, it has been difficult to ensure slots are filled and people are given a fair chance at getting a spot. ERDC is crucial to the center's ability to provide affordable, quality childcare to the community.

I'm writing to urge lawmakers to invest an additional \$500 million for the Employment Related Day Care Program in SB 5514, the Department of Early Learning and Care agency budget. Investing an additional \$500 million dollars in ERDC is crucial to stabilizing the entire child care ecosystem and is essential to addressing long-standing issues plaguing our child care system. By doing so, we can ensure that all families, regardless of income level, have access to affordable and high-quality child care options that meet our unique needs. This investment will have a ripple effect throughout our economy, supporting small businesses, creating jobs, and stimulating local economic growth.

In addition to providing child care to families and supporting our child care workforce, I support this bill because I believe in the importance and urgency of child care for all families.

I urge you to allocate an additional \$500 million dollars for the ERDC program in the Department of Early Learning and Care budget.

Thank you, [redacted]

Salem Oregon