

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 child care provider community member from Eugene Oregon. I have been a CF provider in Eugene for 10 years. 10/12 of my daycare families are ERDC. Without ERDC these families wouldn't even be able to afford to go to work, pay taxes and contribute to the local economy.

Families that are currently on the waitlist have been forced in some cases to take their children to random, unlicensed, unregulated strangers offering cheap "childcare".

Furthermore, several licensed providers have already been forced to shut down because they cannot fill their classes and the rest of us worry how we will fill spots as our current children age into kindergarten.

ERDC is a big expense but it also guarantees that people are working and paying taxes and contributing back to the local economy and actually caring about these children and families.

That is why 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]

Eugene Oregon