

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Kimberly Fox

Date: 4/7/2025

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

My name is Kimberly Fox, and I have been a Registered Childcare Provider in Oregon for 18 years. 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 as a Registered Childcare Provider I see personally, as I have 3 families on ERDC that I have in my program that my families are able to work and take care of their children. I do feel that there should be a change to the program, to be able to benefit more families. The \$5 copay is a joke, parents on the program hardly pay it. I have one family that pays for it and the others skip it. I believe parents should be paying the higher copays like they had to 10 plus years ago. Childcare wasn't just given to the families (a handful need full childcare paid) but others should be based on their income more. My families 10 years ago would pay different amounts, could have been \$100 and some \$300 depending on their individual needs. I believe more families were able to benefit and the respect and appreciation was also there from these families. I feel like nowadays respect and appreciation to the provider is missing because they only have a \$5 copay or nothing at all.

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,
Kimberly Fox
Roseburg Oregon