

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: [redacted]

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 non profit child development center owner and community member from Salem Oregon.

As a non-profit child development center, we are unable to offer scholarships to families who may need extra financial support covering the costs of much needed child care and early childhood education. ERDC has helped many families get the quality care their families deserve. I've had families on the waitlist for 12+ months that are either still on the waitlist or just received funds. By providing more funds, you not only help the families find care, but also help the workforce as these families are able to go to work or school. You also help providers like myself remain open and/or expand care, to be able to serve more of the community. I encourage you to release more funds to help families, children and providers, per bill 2452 under 2025R1.

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]

Salem Oregon

