

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Amy Gillis

Date: 4/8/2025

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

My name is Amy Gillis, and I am a childcare provider and have been for 22 years. I have seen so many struggles with the waitlist for ERDC. From parents crying because they can't afford daycare to losing their jobs and also their homes! This is a huge crisis, and it's affecting a lot of people. How do you expect single parents that can barely afford rent to cover childcare costs? I'm also struggling to fill spots because nobody can afford childcare. I recently got a second location and spent my savings on everything I needed to just accept the fact that it is not going to happen. I'm having a hard time filling one location, let alone a second one.

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 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.

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

Thank you,

Amy Gillis

Eugene Oregon