

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Andrea Navarre

Date: 4/8/2025

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

My name is Andrea, and I am a daycare provider and parent.

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 provider I'm not sure how much longer I'll be able to stay open as families can't afford daycare rates. I'm struggling to find families because they just can't afford to send their kiddos to care. Some of those kiddos rely on us for a safe place to go. Their home lives may not be the best and when they come to us they get full meals and love and kindness that they may not receive at home. If I have to close I don't get to provide that safe space any longer. As I'm sure you know our most vulnerable kiddos come from families who rely on erdc. Ontop of that I'm not sure what to do for work if I have to close because I will be in a position of not being able to afford daycare for my own 3 children and then we could end up without a roof over our heads. It's a really scary time for a lot of people and this could provide a big sigh of relief for many many people. I know multiple families that couldn't afford daycare and are either forced to take their kiddos to work with them (if it's allowed) or to have no job and struggle even further which puts a giant strain on their family.

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,  
Andrea Navarre  
Eugene Oregon