

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Anneliese Sheahan

Date: 4/7/2025

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

My name is Anneliese Sheahan and I am a child care provider and community member from Gladstone Oregon.

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.

I know families making tough choices because they aren't getting ERDC funding. Leaving children under age 10 home alone all day and with younger siblings, single parents having to go on cash assistance after losing their job because they can't afford child care or losing their home (rental) because they chose child care expenses over rent. What about those families down in Florence who used the cheap alternative and their children were molested by that exempt provider and the boyfriend? Working parents shouldn't have to choose between safety for their children and being able to pay their bills through employment! These infrastructure and expansion grantees that are closing their doors in rural Oregon because there are no private pay families and no families funded for ERDC because they are all on the Waitlist? This is one more way Oregon is failing our children and future generations. Fully fund ERDC and lift the Waitlist July 1, 2025!

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,

Anneliese Sheahan
Gladstone Oregon