

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Julie Corrigan

Date: 4/7/2025

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

My name is Julie Corrigan and I am a community member and child care provider from Forest Grove 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.

If we don't get the ERDC investment I believe it's going to destroy childcare providers financially and could lead to the unfortunate closure of great quality programs. The Families needing ERDC funding will not be able to pay for daycare and if they don't have childcare, they won't be able to work. It's very needed for the lower income families to live a normal life and stability for their family. Still struggling to pay for everything with paycheck to paycheck. But if they had to pay for childcare out of pocket. They won't. They can't. So they just won't work or if they somehow are able to keep their employment, they'll leave their beloved child with whoever they can find that day to care for them. Leaving the children with no routine or stability. Or in some cases unsafe environments.

I 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

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,

Julie Corrigan

Forest Grove Oregon