

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Amber Frentz

Date: 4/7/2025

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

My name is Amber Frentz, and I am a certified in-home childcare provider.

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 system and is essential to addressing long-standing issues hurting 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 their 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 certified provider I'm having a hard time filling my spots because working families can't afford care without ERDC. I'm held to a standard being a certified daycare and have to charge the same rates as ERDC and it isn't something a typical working family can come close to being able to afford. I also have to employ at least one full-time assistant and with the decline in enrollment it is going to get harder and harder to keep my doors open. Parents shouldn't be forced to put their children in unsafe conditions or be forced into unemployment to stay home with their children. I can imagine being put in this spot last year after my divorce, all expenses are on me, I cannot force the other parent to contribute, how would I ever be able to go to work fulltime pay for childcare for 3 children and pay for only the necessities. That isn't doable on an average income for any families in this economy. Again not allocating this money is putting families out of work, putting families on the streets, separating families, or god forbid putting our children in unsafe environments.

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

Thank you,

Amber Frentz  
Sweet Home, Oregon