

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Jennifer Herrera

Date: 4/7/2025

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

My name is Jennifer Herrera and I am a community member and child care provider from Hillsboro 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 have had to refer multiple families to EDRC that really need it to go to work. And the wait list is not helping anyone. They have to wait now for however long before they get approved. My enrollment has gone down and I just opened another daycare and I have had no families enroll. It is devastating for my business and I'm not making it! Please remove the waitlist so families have a chance to become functioning citizens!

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,

Jennifer Herrera  
Hillsboro Oregon