

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Natalia Blanco

Date: 4/7/2025

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

As a child care provider for over 2 years, I am writing to express my strong support for investing in the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program. My family and I have worked tirelessly to establish our childcare centers in Beaverton, Hillsboro, and Cornelius, with a focus on providing loving, quality care that allows children to grow into young, healthy adults.

As a child care provider, I am all too familiar with the challenges facing our industry. Low wages, lack of benefits, and barriers to entering the workforce have led to significant labor gaps in our field. That's why I am grateful for programs like ERDC, which provide critical access to child care for thousands of families across Oregon and increase financial stability for providers like me.

However, thousands more families are in need of access to ERDC. That's why I urge you to invest an additional \$500 million dollars in ERDC. This funding will enable the program to continue all families on the ERDC program and eliminate the waitlist which is nearing 10,000 families.

In conclusion, I urge you to invest an additional \$500 million dollars in ERDC. This funding has the potential to make a significant difference in the lives of child care workers like me and the families we serve.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Natalia Blanco
Hillsboro Oregon