

Submitter: Sharon Hill  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: 2026 Agency Reduction Options  
To: Joint Ways and Means Committee  
From: Sharon Hill  
Date: 2/2/2026  
RE: Fund the ERDC Shortfall, No Further Cuts to DELC

Chair Sanchez, Chair Lieber, Vice-Chairs, members of the committee:

Oregon families and child care providers are sounding the alarm: our state's Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program is on the brink of collapse. With a projected \$88 million shortfall and the program at risk of shutting down by January 2027 without intervention, the consequences will be catastrophic — not just for working parents, but for our entire economy.

I'm writing to urge lawmakers to use reserve funds to backfill the \$88 million deficit for the Employment Related Day Care Program.

If the ERDC program runs out of funding, the consequences will be immediate and severe: parents will be forced to make impossible choices—such as cutting back on essentials or pulling their children out of care altogether. Childcare providers, many of whom operate on thin margins, will face closures or reduced capacity as families can no longer afford their services. This isn't just a budget line—it's a crisis in the making, one that hits working families hardest and threatens the backbone of our local economy. Child care is integral to our infrastructure and a necessary public investment; it's time we treated it like one.

I am a child care provider with children on ERDC, please continue to fund this program.

Sharon Hill  
Portland