

Submitter: Elena Barreto

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

Chair Broadman and members of the Committee,

My name is Elena Barreto and I am the Early Childhood Policy Advisor with the Children's Institute. I'm writing to in support of SB 1507-5.

Oregon families urgently need your support to keep our state an affordable place to live and raise children. Investments in child care ensure that parents can work, children are safe and supported, and our economy remains strong. Yet the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program is currently facing a \$73–88 million funding shortfall.

If the legislature does not address this deficit, thousands of families will lose access to child care — with serious consequences for Oregon's workforce and economy:

- More than 12,000 families — including 25,000 children — will lose their child care. When families cannot access child care, they cannot work, and Oregon will continue to see declining personal income tax revenue along with greater economic strain.
- Child care providers will be forced to close or lay off early educators, shrinking an already fragile workforce.
- Children's development and family stability will suffer, with long-term impacts on well-being and school readiness.

I urge you to pass 1507-5. Oregon's children, families, and early educators are counting on you!