

Submitter: Sophie Schwanz-Jones  
On Behalf Of: Anonymous ERDC Child Care Provider  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

Hello, I am an ERDC Child Care Provider.

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 support ERDC because as a childcare provider the recent cuts to state funding for daycare have significantly impacted my childcare business. Without this vital support, many families are unable to afford quality care, leaving my slots unfilled. This situation not only affects my income but also limits access to essential services for children and parents in our community. The lack of funding has created a barrier that hampers my ability to provide a safe and nurturing environment, ultimately jeopardizing the well-being of the children who rely on us.

It's pouring in Oregon. I urge you to use revenue and reserves to close the \$88 million shortfall for the ERDC program in the Department of Early Learning and Care budget.

Thank you,  
Anonymous