

Submitter: Rowan Harvey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

My name is Rowan Harvey, and I am a parent.

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 I live in Clackamas County part time, Multnomah county the other. I'm a single parent working full time as an organizer. I don't have access to affordable childcare at the moment, and lean heavily on any support given by friends and family, which I am lucky to have.

When my kids are sick, I have to miss work. When childcare isn't available, I have to miss work. This puts stress on paying rent and other necessities. If the ERDC was funded and expanded, this would greatly benefit so many families like mine, all families across our state.

Families are raising the next generation of your constituents. They're raising the ones who will sit in your place one day. The future care workers, nurses, teachers, senators, councilors; we're raising them right now, and they need and deserve to be cared for, educated. We are all setting an example for them of how to take care of each other. Supporting them and the people who care for them is an investment in the health and wellbeing of all present and future.

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,

Rowan Harvey