

Submitter: Sarah Guest  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

To: House Revenue Committee

Date: 2/16/26

From: Sarah Guest

Re: Support for SB 1507

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Walters and Reschke, and members of the committee...

My name is Sarah, and I am a parent and also an LCSW who works in healthcare.

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 parent who relies on child care to go to work/ school, I also want others to be able to depend on having childcare. Childcare is perhaps one of the most important things we could support - allowing parents to have careers, providing a safe place where kids can grow, and alleviating the burden of stress associated with how to survive financially. The mental health of parents has been declared a crisis by the surgeon general. Childcare can certainly help lift the burden.

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,

Sarah Guest