

Submitter: Ian Carrick
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507
To: House Revenue Committee
Date: 2/16/26
From: Ian Carrick
Re: Support for SB 1507

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

My name is Ian Carrick and I am a parent, stepparent, teacher and community organizer.

Essential state and federal services that millions of Oregonians rely on are at risk of severe funding cuts due to H.R. 1 and the Trump Administration's agenda. While Oregon faces the loss of billions in federal funds, the wealthiest earners and out-of-state corporations stand to gain massive tax breaks. This is unacceptable for our state and its people.

If we do not decouple from these federal tax codes, Oregon will be forced to make devastating cuts to essential services that millions rely on. Without action, the impacts will be severe: Employment-Related Day Care will run out of money by January 2027 unless the current legislature fills its \$88 million shortfall; food banks will be overwhelmed as federal SNAP funds are withdrawn, leaving critical gaps in food security; hundreds of thousands of Oregonians stand to lose health care coverage due to the largest funding cut in Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan history. These are just a few examples of what's at risk if we remain bound to a federal system that prioritizes tax breaks for the wealthy over the well-being of our communities.

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 affordable childcare would be a game changer for our family. We are in a situation where it makes more economic sense for my partner to stay home with our youngest kid, sacrificing her own career and educational goals in the process, because the cost of childcare is more expensive than the cost of her not working. Her work, by the way, was for a private day care that we couldn't afford with the employee discount. We feel envious of parents who can afford high-quality childcare and get to exercise, work, and otherwise take care of themselves while knowing that their child is getting care with a sensible staff ratio. When programs like the one she works for cost \$1400+ per month, it's a shame that the employees who work there can't afford to send their kids there. We need more access to affordable, high-quality childcare.

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,

Ian Carrick