

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

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

My name is Lia Mills, and I am a community member and mother of two young children living in East Portland. For the past 2.5 years, I have been on waitlists for various childcare subsidy programs, struggling to secure safe and reliable care that would allow me to work and create stability for my family.

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the current legislature fills its \$88 million shortfall; food banks will be overwhelmed as federal SNAP funds are withdrawn, leaving critical gaps in food security; hundreds of thousands of Oregonians stand to lose health care coverage due to the largest funding cut in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.

The Early Learning Division's ERDC program has been a lifeline. Access to ERDC has allowed me to begin building a pathway to self-sufficiency while ensuring my children are cared for in a safe, nurturing environment. Without this support, I wouldn't be able to work, attend appointments, or protect myself and my children from the ongoing risk posed by an abusive partner.

Reliable childcare is not a luxury, it is essential for parents like me to provide safety, stability, and opportunity for their children, while also building independence and a

future free from harm. By supporting ERDC, you are directly helping families escape cycles of poverty, violence, and instability, while giving children the safe environments they need to thrive.

I urge the committee to continue funding ERDC. Programs like this save families and help them build safer, more secure futures.

Thank you  
Lia Mills