

April 14th, 2021

To: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Amy Powers

Re: Childcare funding

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward, and Rayfield; and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Powers, resident of unincorporated Washington County, and I thank you for your continued work in our community.

I am a parent of two children and have struggled with accessing quality child care throughout their early years. When my oldest was an infant, I worked part-time jobs with no benefits and needed child care. In fact, one of those part-time jobs with no benefits was a child care provider. I had to choose to either pay for rent, food, or child care. During this pandemic, there are many stories like mine where parents have to make these tough choices and it should not be a choice any parent has to make.

I urge you to fully-fund the ERDC program and HB 3073 to ensure that our state supports early childhood, which includes families and child care employees. We desperately need a stronger infrastructure and to be set up to provide the best possible outcomes for our youngest community members and their mothers.

Sincerely,

Amy Powers