

April 24th, 2021

To: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means
From: Ariana Brooks
Re: Childcare funding

Dear Co-Chairs Betsy Johnson, Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, and Dan Rayfield,

My name is Ariana Brooks and I live in Keizer, OR. I am writing today to ask that you keep the ERDC program funded and support HB 3073.

I had to leave my job in 2017 after my 2nd child was born because my paycheck would not cover the cost of having them in childcare. When my oldest reached preschool age in 2018 I was hoping to put my youngest in daycare and work part time, but we did not qualify for free preschool. So, I've been stuck at home with both kids not able to work due to the lack of affordable childcare options. We are a hard-working middle income family that did not qualify for assistance of any type which forced us to give up income due to not having affordable childcare options. Now that my youngest will be starting Kindergarten in 2021, I hope to be able to go back to work and gain income that my family desperately needs to get ahead in life!

Sincerely,

Ariana Brooks