



February 23, 2021

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 473**  
DRO Employment Related Day Care Eligibility Notification  
Submitted by Chloe Becker on behalf of Family Forward Oregon

Chair Burdick, Vice-Chair Boquist, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 473, which directs the Department of Revenue to both identify and notify taxpayers eligible for the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program. Family Forward Oregon is an organization that organizes mothers and caregivers and is committed to changing systems to better support both care and caregivers.

Access to high-quality, affordable childcare has long been a crisis in our state-- with every county across Oregon being a childcare desert for at least one age group-- and the COVID-19 pandemic has only further exacerbated this crisis. Family Forward Oregon, in coalition with other organizations, parents, and caregivers across the state, as well as many of you and your colleagues, is committed to building back a better child care system that works for everyone.

As we undergo this work, it is vital that we examine our current processes. During 2020, Family Forward and many other groups came together with Senator Taylor and Representative Power as a part of the Joint Task Force on Access to Quality Affordable Child Care. In these discussions, the Task Force examined barriers to accessing ERDC in Oregon<sup>1</sup>, the first of which was lack of awareness by parents that the program exists. In tandem with the rollout of the ONE eligibility system, the notification requirements outlined in SB 473 will help bridge the awareness gap for parents.

Other bills before the legislature, such as HB 2503 and HB 3073, examine both the inner workings of ERDC and Oregon's governance structure for all child care and early learning programs. While we are committed to working alongside you on these larger reforms, we urge this committee more forward with this commonsense notification requirement to ensure parents are aware of and are able to apply for ERDC.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/201911/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/226751>