

Submitter: Nicole Arenas Redinger
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5514

Dear Committee Members/Decision Makers,

I am writing to strongly urge you to reopen the waitlist for Childcare ERDC funding, a crucial resource that enables families to access quality childcare while pursuing employment opportunities. The financial strain on families, especially in the current economic climate, makes this support even more necessary. As many families are trying to re-enter the workforce or stabilize their employment, the inability to access funding for childcare places a significant barrier in their path.

Childcare costs have long been a significant burden for working families. For many parents, the cost of care often exceeds what they can afford, even while juggling full-time employment. The ERDC program helps alleviate this strain by providing financial assistance to cover childcare expenses, ensuring that parents can continue working without having to compromise on their children's care or their own financial stability.

However, due to the waitlist, many families are left in a difficult position, unable to receive the support they need when they need it most. The lack of access to funding keeps parents from returning to work or furthering their careers, undermining their economic mobility and creating additional stress for families who are already struggling to balance work and family life.

In addition to the direct impact on families, childcare providers are also feeling the strain. Many childcare centers and home-based providers rely on ERDC funding to remain financially viable. As more families are unable to access funding, providers face a reduction in enrollment and, consequently, revenue. This not only threatens the livelihood of childcare businesses but also reduces the availability of care for other families in the community, making the need for expanded ERDC access even more urgent.

I ask that you consider the profound impact opening the ERDC waitlist would have on both families and childcare providers. By providing immediate support, you would be enabling families to return to work, boosting the local economy, and ensuring that childcare providers are compensated for the vital work they do. Reopening the waitlist is a necessary step to ensure that families can meet their basic needs and continue contributing to the workforce without facing insurmountable obstacles due to unaffordable childcare costs.

In closing, I respectfully urge you to prioritize the reopening of the Childcare ERDC funding waitlist. This action would demonstrate a commitment to supporting working families, strengthening the economy, and ensuring that every child has access to quality care while their parents work to provide for them.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Nicole's In-Home Childcare