

Submitter: Alisha Hendrickson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5514

To whom it may concern,

It is absolutely essential to Oregon families and the Oregon workforce that Employment Related Day Care Subsidies be fully funded so that the waitlist is no longer a barrier to work. As a child care provider myself, I understand budgets and I understand the numbers. I understand cuts need to be made but child care should not be one of them any more than public schools. My one job ensures that approximately 20 other adults are able to go to work reliably everyday. My one job ensures 14 children have a safe, healthy learning environment with warm meals and a consistent, stable caregiver. ERDC funding is essential to my job and the jobs of so many working parents. My program relies heavily on ERDC funding because of the rural community I live in. Minimum wage jobs are the norm but the cost of living is well above sustainability on minimum wage. If low-income household's want to work, they need childcare but there is not enough money left after rent, gas and groceries to pay for it. ERDC fills that gap for working families the same way the public schools have filled that gap for older children for generations. Please view ERDC funding as essential as funding our public schools. Without that funding daycares across the state will have to close creating even more of a problem than we already have. Adults who want to and are capable of working will have to choose to remain unemployed or to never have a family. Having children will be only for the upper class who can afford a stay-at-home parent. Is that the message we are going to send to Oregon's workforce? You cannot have a family because that is only for the wealthy? Or can we support this generation of workers to ensure a strong, stable generation of families. Fully fund ERDC and remove the waitlist. Oregon's families are counting on you.

Thank You.

Alisha Hendrickson  
Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood  
Certified Family Child Care Provider