

Submitter: Andrea Metheney
On Behalf Of: Ana Ruiz Morillo
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5514

Date: 3/5/25
SB 5514 In support

My name is Ana Ruiz Morillo, and I am the founder and Director of Training To Impact, an Oregon business dedicated to empowering communities and inspiring change. Through our work, we are deeply connected to the Latino community, and we frequently hear from community members, especially child care providers, seeking support in promoting their services.

As someone who has worked closely with immigrant communities, I have seen firsthand the challenges that new immigrants face when trying to access quality child care. Language barriers, unfamiliarity with the culture, and a lack of established networks make it incredibly difficult for both providers to connect with families and for families to find quality child care options.

That's why I am urging you to invest an additional \$500 million dollars in the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program. This investment will help address the critical need for accessible and affordable child care within immigrant communities.

This investment is not only crucial for supporting immigrant families and child care providers, but also for promoting economic growth and development in our state. When parents have access to affordable and high-quality child care, they are more likely to participate in the workforce, start their own businesses, and contribute to their communities.

I urge you to invest an additional \$500 million dollars in ERDC. This funding has the potential to make a significant difference in the lives of Oregon's children and families. By investing in child care, we can ensure that all children have access to quality early childhood education and set our state up for long-term success.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Ana Ruiz Morillo