

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

Dear Co-Chairs Sollman and Ruiz, and members of the committee,

My name is Amanda Hanson, and I am a parent of the Bethel and Springfield School Districts, an advocate, and the owner and operator of Lil' Attitudes Preschool and Childcare Center.

I am writing to urge you to invest additional funds for Employment Related Childcare and the Department of Early Learning and Care agency. Investing in these programs, particularly ERDC, is crucial for stabilizing the entire childcare infrastructure. This would ensure that families, regardless of income, have access to affordable, high-quality childcare – the kind that establishments like mine provide. This investment would also stimulate our economy by supporting small businesses like mine, creating jobs, and driving economic growth.

As both a parent and a business owner, I depend on programs like ERDC to subsidize the cost of childcare, which can be more expensive than rent for some families. We are constantly told that we are in a childcare desert, yet when I opened my childcare business a year ago, many families were put on the ERDC waitlist, and they remain there today. We have the capacity for over 90 children in our center, but we are barely at half capacity in this so-called desert.

I urge you to allocate the necessary funds to the ERDC program to support all who depend on it. In the past year, I have had to sell many personal items just to keep my business afloat.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Amanda Hanson