

Submitter: Anna Pickel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: SB5514

Hello Members of the Committee. My name is Anna Pickel and I am the owner/operator of Happy Go Lucky Childcare located in NE Portland. I am urging the committee to allocate additional funding to the Employment Related Day Care program. Our state has been in a waitlist status for our ERDC status since November 2023. This is having a detrimental impact on our children, families and childcare programs statewide. With over 10,000 families currently on the waitlist and growing every day, we desperately need to address this issue and provide support for working parents. Without additional funding, thousands of parents will be unable to work, creating economic instability in our state and leaving millions in potential tax revenues on the table. Childcare businesses are also struggling with low enrollment due to the waitlist and families unable to afford the cost of care on their own. After surviving some of the most challenges years of our careers during the COVID pandemic, many businesses are not facing tough choices as enrollment continues to drop and those looking for care dwindle. Oregon cannot afford to lose any of their existing childcare programs as we all ready have many childcare deserts across our state. Please support families, children and childcare programs by allocating an additional \$500 million in funding to the ERDC program. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Anna Pickel