



Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

Co-Chairs Sollman and Ruiz, and members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsie Bates and I am a child care provider.

I'm writing to urge lawmakers to invest an additional \$500 million for the Employment Related Day Care Program in SB 5514, the Department of Early Learning and Care agency budget. Investing an additional \$500 million dollars in ERDC is crucial to stabilizing the entire child care ecosystem and is essential to addressing long-standing issues plaguing our child care system. By doing so, we can ensure that all families, regardless of income level, have access to affordable and high-quality child care options that meet our unique needs. This investment will have a ripple effect throughout our economy, supporting small businesses, creating jobs, and stimulating local economic growth.

As a child care provider being able to offer this form of payments means so much to our families in this community. We have many family with both parents working and are still not making ends meet. Now they don't have access for assistance and are forced to have a parent leave a job and go more so on welfare. I feel for these families and we have opening for these slots that can not be filled. It is a negative for both parents and providers. At what point will a provider say they will no longer take ERDC and unfortunately this would hurt our youth who could be in programs that otherwise would not.

I urge you to allocate an additional \$500 million dollars for the ERDC program in the Department of Early Learning and Care budget.

Thank you,

Chelsie Bates
Vale, Oregon