

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Cassidey Williams

Date: 4/7/2025

Co-Chair Tawna D. Sanchez, Co-Chair Kate Lieber and members of the the Committee

My name is Cassidey Williams and I am a child care center owner and community member from Grants Pass Oregon.

ERDC has been a struggle for a lot of families not being able to receive childcare. Parents are working to make ends meet, and they cannot because there's no ERDC funding. They're put on a waitlist and have to figure out how to work without childcare. Rates are high with private pay making it even harder to find childcare. There are a lot of single parents on the waitlist that are struggling.

I am a single mom of 3 with no help. I have owned my daycare for almost 8 years. I have never had an issue filling my daycare spots. Now I can barely fill any. I'm struggling and living paycheck to paycheck. It's screwing childcare families & childcare providers.

If you were for the children, you would fund this, period.

That is why 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.

In addition to providing child care to families and supporting our child care workforce, I support this bill because I believe in the importance and urgency of child care for all families.

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,

Cassidey Williams
Grants Pass Oregon