



Testimony for Ways and Means: Support for HB 2452 and SB 5514

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

We are the Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Director's Coalition. We represent the 15 CCR&R agencies serving all 36 counties across Oregon.

The child care sector is fundamental to Oregon's economy. Not only does it generate its own economic output, but it also ensures that working parents can participate in the labor force, supporting every other industry in the state. As child care systems face growing challenges, the impact is being felt across families, businesses, and the broader economy.

CCR&Rs address the growing challenges of the child care industry. CCR&Rs operate nationally and have served Oregon communities since 1989. For over 35 years CCR&R has been Oregon's child care connection. We are a network of experts that increase access to quality child care through training, advocacy, community-based learning and relationship-based support for child care providers and families alike.

Investment is needed to stabilize Oregon's child care ecosystem and address long-standing issues that plague our system.

- Working parents need help connecting with child care that meets their needs.
- Child care programs have open spots that need to be filled or their business will close.
- Oregon loses \$1.4 billion annually when parents cannot go to work due to lack of child care.

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 their unique needs.

We are writing to urge lawmakers to prioritize strategic investment in critical child care initiatives that will have a profound impact on families, our workforce, and local economies, especially during difficult times. Specifically, we strongly support allocating:

- \$14 million for **HB 2452** to fund Child Care Resource & Referral agencies to offer local child care navigation support ensuring families can access child care.
- \$250 million additional budget allocation for **SB 5514** to the Department of Early Learning and Care to eliminate the waitlist for Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) and connect 4,000 approved families with child care so they can work.



We urge you to allocate these critical funds to support Oregon's child care system and ensure that all families have access to quality child care. Now is the time to invest in child care! This investment will have immediate and long-term economic benefits and impacts for communities and the state.

Thank you,
The Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Director's Coalition