

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Sylvia Day

Date: 4/7/2025

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

My name is Sylvia Day, and I am an aunt to many young nieces and nephews, both by family and chosen family. I'm writing to urge lawmakers to invest in critical child care initiatives that will have a profound impact on families, our workforce, and local economies. Specifically, I strongly support allocating:

- \$250 million additional budget allocation 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 providers.
- \$14 million for HB 2452 to fund Child Care Resource and Referral Directors, ensuring families can find suitable care options.
- \$16 million for HB 3008 to continue recognition bonus payments to child care providers and invest in workforce apprenticeship programs.

As an aunt who deeply values the well-being of my nieces and nephews, I support these bills because they will help ensure that rural families can thrive.

Rural families and underserved communities are particularly affected by the lack of child care options, which limits their ability to work, contribute to the economy, and fully participate in their communities.

This investment will have a lasting impact on our communities and our state's future.

Thank you,

Sylvia Day

Talent, Oregon