

Submitter: B Tobias
On Behalf Of: TANF only for 40 work wk employees
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1535

In 2021, HB 3073 expanded ERDC access to TANF families, domestic violence survivors, and families involved in the child welfare system. Beginning in July 2023, these populations were granted categorical eligibility, allowing them to bypass the ERDC waitlist and access child care vouchers immediately. In just two years, child care access for families using TANF increased by 425%. TANF families earn approximately \$1,040 per month for a family of three, while the average cost of toddler care in Oregon exceeds \$20,000 annually. What this tells us is that we are providing free child care to those who are not working a job, because that amounts to \$6.50/hr and that is below the legal minimum wage. Child care should ONLY be provided to those who work, preferably a 40 hr work week to support their families. It is not the job of the state to support those who prefer not to work, while taxpayers pay for their children to be cared for. Working families, do need a good program to help them, but not the way this one is designed.

No Study is needed, just do what is right and there is ample money to care for these kids.