



February 12th, 2026

To: Senate Committee Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee
From: Partners For a Hunger-Free Oregon
RE: Neutral for SB 1535

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and members of the Committee,

My name is Amanda Orozco and I am the Policy Manager at Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon. We are a statewide advocacy organization whose values and work are centered on creating systemic changes to reduce poverty and support families.

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon is neutral on SB 1535, the Employment Related Day Care TANF bypass bill, but we want to highlight a critical issue: without addressing the \$73–88 million ERDC budget shortfall, suspending the TANF bypass would cut access to child care for thousands of families and strain over 4,400 child care providers. TANF families earn very low incomes (often less than \$1,040 per month for a family of three) while the average cost of toddler care in Oregon exceeds \$20,000 per year. Child care is not a handout; it is the bridge that allows parents to work, attend school, and build stability for their children.

We support Section 2 of the -2 amendment, which addresses the high cost of liability insurance for providers, helping sustain Oregon's child care infrastructure. However, we urge the Committee and Legislature to fund the ERDC program to prevent devastating cuts to families and providers. SB 1535 should not be a substitute for adequate funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Amanda Orozco