



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate approves bill that helps families stay in the workforce, maintains jobs
SB 5100 helps 5,500 kids, 2,900 families, 1,800 workers

SALEM – The Oregon Senate passed a budget bill this afternoon that will continue a program that provides day care for working parents and provides jobs for child care providers. House Bill 5100 will continue the state’s commitment to Employee Related Day Care (ERDC). The program was slated to be eliminated for nearly 3,000 families on June 30, 2010.

“Creating and maintaining jobs while helping Oregon families has been our most urgent purpose during this short session,” said Senate Majority Leader Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin). “This bill is representative of those priorities. HB 5100 keeps people working so they can take care of their families.”

Under HB 5100, 5,500 children will continue to receive day care. The parents of these children are low-wage workers who could not afford to stay in their jobs without affordable day care. These 5,500 children are in 2,900 families, so 2,900 working parents -- many single moms -- can also keep working.

“This is the single biggest jobs bill the legislature will pass this session,” said Senator Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland), chair of the Senate Commerce and Workforce Development Committee. “Many families simply can’t afford the cost of child care and without this bill they would be forced to choose between taking care of their kids and going to work.”

Additionally, HB 5100 allows those who provide care to stay in the workforce. Nearly 1,800 private sector child care workers would have lost their jobs without today’s legislation.

Also included in HB 5100 is funding for Oregon Opportunity Grants in the 2009-10 academic year. The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) is expected to restore the announced award reductions of \$120 for full-time students and \$60 for part-time students for the Spring quarter and second semester.

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