

I am in favor of SB 2301 for the childcare stabilization grant. I am an in-home daycare provider in West Fargo and have been doing this for over 20 years with 15 children enrolled currently. I have employees and the stabilization grant has helped me pay my employees for their scheduled time and give each of them raises. I cannot compete with the daycare centers when it comes to wages since they are able to offer insurance and typically start them at \$13/hour. I am not able to pay that to mine. I must give other incentives such as paying them for time off, even when I'm closed. If I get paid, they get paid. With the extra money, I have been able to keep the same staff for almost 2 years which is unheard of at in-home daycares.

I also purchase preschool curriculum which I do not charge the parents for. I take this on myself because I know how hard it is to pay for preschool and daycare and I don't want to lose them for a place that does have preschool. We have typically had these children from birth, and they become family to me.

Please continue the stabilization grant to keep our programs open and help with retaining staff and giving our families the best experiences. Any amount helps us! The hardest part is finding good people to work with our little friends. When we do find those people, we want them to stay with us which is also good for the children to have consistency.

Angie Puhr

Angie's Playskool