

Written Only Testimony for SB 2301

I am writing for testimony for SB 2301 child care stabilization program. The amounts currently listed won't help in-home providers as they are such a small amount and will be taxed. In-home providers have been the backbone for our workforce pre-covid, during covid- and post-covid. These amounts are not going to make much of a financial difference for providers, especially those with small in-home daycares with less than 15 enrolled kids. While I appreciate the state of ND wanting to assist and aid daycares in remaining open, \$35 per toddler, per month, will assist me in buying printer ink and that is about it, especially considering these grants will likely be taxed on top of that. With inflation rising and the cost of goods continuing to escalate (eggs went up almost \$2 in the last week alone), this will not be enough to stabilize childcare in ND. Either childcare tuition will soar past affordable for the families of ND (we are already on the edge of that), or childcares will continue closing. The previous funding of the child care stabilization grant/program was in fact a GREAT program. It helped my business in a rural community, and many many others stay afloat and open for the working families with all the inflation prices. If SM 2301 could be more like that one, it would be a GREAT help to the in-home early childhood childcare programs in North Dakota. PLEASE, the monthly stipends are so important to be continued at better amounts! They help us stay in business and provide the best care for the children in our care. Childcare is ESSENTIAL and without it, people and the economy suffer.

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