

Testimony
House Bill No. 1119
Senate Workforce Development Committee
Senator Mike Wobbema, Chairman
March 6, 2025

Chairman Wobbema, and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, I am Carmen Traeholt, Early Childhood Services Licensing Administrator with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you to offer information regarding Engrossed House Bill No. 1119, which was introduced at the request of the Department and amended in the House.

The Department introduced House Bill No. 1119 to eliminate redundancy within existing child care license types and to reduce a number of administrative challenges that affect child care providers.

The House amended the Bill by turning it into a study that would examine “the laws, administrative rules, and policies relating to early childhood services and child care”. Should Engrossed House Bill No. 1119 be approved by the Senate and should Legislative Management choose to proceed with the study as described in the Bill, the Department can provide information gathered during several recent studies completed in conjunction with the early childhood infrastructure investments made via the North Dakota Preschool Development grant award (PDG). This information would include a crosswalk and comparison study of the laws, rules, and policies relevant to the six license types and two non-license types that make up North Dakota’s child care infrastructure, as completed by Dr. Kelli Odden, Professor, Dean and Division Chair of Mayville State University Education Department in June 2024.

In keeping with the Department's commitment to reducing administrative burden and streamlining processes, we intend to initiate a comprehensive revision of the Administrative Rules that affect the delivery of Early Childhood services. The Administrative Rules process will build on any law changes approved during this Legislative Session. Later this spring we will start working with child care providers to review the proposed revisions to the seven chapters of North Dakota Administrative Code that are relevant to child care licensing. To ensure this is an inclusive process, we have a series of regional meetings and topical focus groups planned over the next six months. Our intent is to complete the Administrative Rules process on or before January 1, 2027.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.