

Chairman Heinert, Vice-Chair Schreiber-Beck, and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Kathy Busche. I own and operate two childcare programs in Hazen. One program is a group facility licensed for 30. I own the facility and operate a 0-5 program with a current enrollment of 33 children. The second program is my home where I operate a school age program with a license for 30 with 25 children enrolled. The facility is Step 2 in Bright and Early QRIS. Our home program is Step 1 QRIS. I have been operating my business out of my home since 2007 and purchased and renovated the facility opening the second location in January 2022. I have a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from MSUM and providing quality childcare is my passion.

I am sorry I cannot be present to testify in person, but unfortunately, I do not have the backup staff required to be away from our programs at the present time.

I am writing today regarding bill HB 1144. Although it is important for educators and early childhood professionals to be trained in mandated reporting I am concerned that an hour of training on this topic is going to end up similar to the current SIDS training in which providers simply go through the motions of the training but don't actually pay any attention to it. Childcare providers are already overworked and have little time to give to another training. I believe it would be helpful to combine the mandated reporting information into another training such as abusive head trauma and self-care training. I feel providers would benefit more from training on self-care because although we know that abuse happens outside of childcare we also know that providers have also been known to make poor decisions and children have been the victims of those decisions.

I recommend to the committee that an amendment be made to the bill to that ensures this training would be counted towards our yearly total hours required and be provided free of charge.

I would be more than happy to answer any questions the committee might have.

Kathy Busche

Kathaleen Busche (The Children's Playhouse) Group facility

Kathaleen Busche 2.0 Group Home

Hazen, ND 58545