

House Bill 1298
Industry, Business, and Labor Committee
Representative Louser, Chairman
Representative Ostlie, Vice-Chair
January 18, 2023

Chairman Louser, Vice-Chair Ostlie, and members of the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee:

My name is Allison Lillemoen, and I provide group daycare for families in Grand Forks County. I apologize; I cannot participate in person or via remote testimony today as I can not close my doors as many families rely on my business to provide childcare. Please accept my written testimony as sufficient.

I am providing testimony in opposition to House Bill 1298.

If House Bill 1298 were passed, it would significantly affect my daycare and others providing care across North Dakota. I have reached out to my insurance company for a quote on my yearly premium if this bill were to pass.

My yearly premium would increase by over \$2,000.00 a year. This will over double my annual premium. To accommodate this added item to my insurance policy and continue providing care, I would need to increase my current rate by \$18.00 a week per child.

\$18.00 a week per child sounds insignificant. Over a year, this would cost our families an additional \$936.00 per child. Families are already struggling to pay the current rates consistent across the entire state (\$150-\$225/per week/per child), which will put additional unnecessary financial stress on them.

Due to the cost-of-living increase over the last year, providers have already had to increase rates substantially to afford and continue to provide care for families.

Another concern I have is what is the fiscal impact of the childcare assistance vouchers that many individuals in our state receive. Will they adjust their assistance voucher to meet this financial change?

Please vote no on House Bill 1298 as this bill would just be another added hardship financially for the providers who must pay for the premium upfront, the parents who pay weekly for childcare, and the state that provides childcare assistance vouchers to those that qualify.

This concludes my testimony. Since I cannot testify in person – please do not hesitate to email me with any questions at alimarie12@hotmail.com.

Thank you,

Allison Lillemon
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Grand Forks County Child Care Provider