



THE CHAMBER
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

FMWF Chamber Letter of Support for SB 2238

March 14th, 2023

Chair Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

For the record, my name is Katherine Grindberg and I have the pleasure of serving as the Executive Vice President for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo (FMWF) Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity for businesses, members, and the greater community. On behalf of our over 1,900 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2238, as it relates to childcare provider fingerprinting and background check processes.

As members of this committee well know, workforce is a major challenge facing nearly every business across North Dakota. This challenge is not unique to our state though, businesses across the United States are in desperate need of qualified workers to fill their open positions. Every state in the nation is competing to attract, acclimate, retain, and develop workforce. A critical component of this nationwide workforce crisis is the accessibility of affordable and quality childcare. These challenges are cyclical in nature and require a multi-pronged approach to strategically address the root causes of the problem.

As we have visited with childcare providers, the fingerprinting and background check process have been identified as major challenges, causing delays in the employment process and may hinder individuals from seeking employment. Through innovative approaches, the state of North Dakota and childcare providers can streamline these employment processes and reduce regulatory burdens without compromising the quality of care, to create a more sustainable and equitable childcare sector.

We encourage the legislature to support innovative childcare solutions, such as SB 2238, to effectively address our state's childcare crisis. On behalf of our members, thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Katherine Grindberg
Executive Vice President
FMWF Chamber of Commerce
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