

January 8, 2023

RE: SB2104

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sue Brady, I have been a licensed group, in home provider in Bismarck for the past 37 years. I am writing in opposition to select changes in SB2104.

I am in opposition to every change regarding "school-age children" at least five years through twelve years of age. It is in my opinion that the age should remain through eleven years.

Currently, a provider who has a twelve-year-old child, in an in-home family or group child care program, can count this child as a helper, and not include this child in their ratios or total number of children present. This frees up a much-needed spot for a younger child. The twelve-year-old is utilized as a before/after-school helper, used on non-school days, and summer breaks. Adding a twelve-year-old back into our ratios will limit enrollment, increase our costs, while lowering our income and will become harder for families to enroll younger children.

Currently, all children in the home that are age twelve or above are required to have a criminal background check completed. Will this rule change affect all age twelve children brought into our homes? If so, how many parents are willing to have their child subjected to a criminal background check, especially when their child can already legally stay home by themselves?

According to this document; <https://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/cfs/brochure-home-alone.pdf>, written by the ND Department of Human Services, it states "Children who are the age of 12 years and older may be permitted to act as baby-sitters." Given this information provided by the state, it seems to contradict the change in SB2104. It would seem irresponsible to change the age of children in our care to add a child who is already old enough to care for themselves and others.

Sincerely,

Sue Brady

Brady's Family Childcare

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