

January 8, 2023

Re: SB2104

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Shanna Brady and I have been a licensed childcare provider for nearly 17 years in Bismarck. I am writing in opposition to select changes to SB2104.

The change from the wording “through eleven years old” to “school-age children at least five years through twelve years of age.” I do not agree with this at all. I have twin 12-year-old girls of my own that have taken CPR/First Aid (\$45 each), been fingerprinted (\$25 each) and passed a background check so they can be my helpers. They truly have not been a part of my daycare since they were 10 years old. They outgrew the daycare setting by that age. If this were to pass, I would need to terminate 2 children to make room again for my middle school 12-year olds. My 12-year olds who are old enough to stay home by themselves and even babysit others according to a ND brochure <https://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/cfs/brochure-home-alone.pdf>. This would only make it harder to families to find childcare spots.

I also have to wonder how many 11–12 year olds are actually in childcare. My guess is very few. In my nearly 17 years I have never had a child older than 10 years in my care. I hope you will reconsider this and keep it as is.

Thank you,

Shanna Brady
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