

Testimony
Senate Bill 2182
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
February 8, 2023

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Kay Larson, Early Childhood Section Director for the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I am here today to register the Department's support for Senate Bill 2182.

The United States Department of Defense (DoD) has a program to certify family child care programs that uses a rigorous set of standards and quality expectations outlined in Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02. DoD's regulations exceed North Dakota's licensing regulations for early childhood services which includes a system to monitor DoD family child care homes on a regular basis during any hours of operation.

It is our understanding that DoD takes an active role in child care because they have found it supports mission readiness, family readiness, and service member retention. DoD is working with states across the country to identify opportunities to increase the availability of quality child care for military families.

Senate Bill 2182 would allow these DoD-certified child care programs to be excluded from the definition of early childhood services as outlined in North Dakota Century Code 50-11.1-02. While child care providers can already operate on military installations without state licensure, this Bill would create the opportunity for DoD-certified programs to operate legally in locations that are off the installation via the licensure exemption created on page 2 lines 22-24 of the Bill.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.