



Child Development Programs
Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Care

Chairman Wobbema, Vice Chairman Axtman, and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share in support of SB 2301. I am unable to attend in person today because my program, like others in the state, are dealing with a childcare staffing crisis.

My name is Jessi Hegg and I am the Program Director for the Mayville State University Child Development Programs, hereby referred to as MSU CDP. Mayville State University is the only university/college in the state that hosts a Head Start childcare program. MSU CDP does not currently receive appropriated state dollars from the Mayville State budget to support the program as it is federally funded through grants and childcare fees. MSU CDP is both a federally-funded Head Start and Early Head Start program as well as a child care program. MSU CDP currently receives federal funding for 175 Head Start and Early Head Start children. MSU CDP receives childcare fee for 79 full time children and many of the children enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start utilize MSU CDP's before and after care program. MSU CDP also receives tuition for 30 children in after school care in Traill County.

Kids Count North Dakota reported that in 2021, North Dakota had 62,355 children aged 0 to 5. Kids Count North Dakota also reported the licensed childcare capacity could serve 38,837 children in North Dakota in 2022. Kids Count North Dakota reports that only 32.1% of licensed childcares have a quality rating with Bright and Early North Dakota. 5 of MSU CDP's 7 locations are Step 3 quality rated.

Currently, MSU CDP receives stabilization grant dollars from the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services. Those dollars have kept fees for our childcare children at nearly pre-Covid levels by helping to offset the increase in inflation. Some MSU CDP families qualify for childcare assistance, which the additional assistance has also helped to keep childcare fees lower. Both of these programs are nearing the end of the budget period and will no longer be available to help. As the bill is currently proposed, MSU CDP currently stands to receive the following:

	Site:	CV	HPK	Mayville	Portland	GCM	SFB	Hillsboro
\$50.00 per infant		0	0	5	4	4	0	0
\$35.00 per toddler		0	0	14	7	17	0	7
\$25.00 after school age		0	0	19	0	0	0	11
Total:		0	0	\$1,215.00	\$445.00	\$795.00	0	\$520.00
25% of overall total added		0	0	\$303.75	\$111.25	\$198.75	0	\$130.00
Overall Program Total:	\$3,718.75							

Previously, MSU CDP received \$22,825 total in monthly stabilization payments. The proposed stabilization dollars would be 16% of the previous monthly payments. This funding will be helpful to the budget, but helpful in a limited capacity. Currently, MSU CDP has 3 classrooms closed due to a lack of staff which could accommodate an additional 24 infants and toddlers. MSU CDP also has 5 classrooms which are only partially enrolled due to a lack of staff. These classrooms could provide service to an additional 30 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. MSU CDP currently has a waiting list of 325 children across 7 locations in eastern North Dakota, but we do not have the required teachers to serve the 325 students.

I urge the committee to consider an amendment to increase these amounts. The proposed amounts are not enough to increase staff wages, keep up with inflation, or maintain current childcare fees. A program of seven licensed childcare centers, serving 305 children, would only be eligible for \$3,718.75.

The proposal to provide any fiscal support to childcare in North Dakota would be welcomed by MSU CDP. I urge you to consider amending the amount to make a more significant impact to support an already challenged workforce. I will gladly make myself available for questions from the committee.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. I understand and value the importance of quality childcare and are committed to continuing our service to the families of these counties allowing them to be part of our critically needed state workforce.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Jessi Hegg

Program Director
Mayville State University
Child Development Programs

701.788.4868

jessi.tompers@mayvillestate.edu

Apply today: www.mayvillestate.edu/cdpapp

