



# North Dakota Senate

#17044



STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

## Senator Ryan Braunberger

District 10  
4924 Amber Valley Parkway, Apt. 307  
Fargo, ND 58104-8640

[rbraunberger@ndlegis.gov](mailto:rbraunberger@ndlegis.gov)

## COMMITTEES:

Judiciary  
State and Local Government

01/22/2023

Chairman Wobbema and members of the workforce committee, thank you for taking the time to let me present this bill. For the record, my name is Ryan Braunberger, Senator from district 10 Fargo. I come before you today on proposed legislation to stabilize the childcare infrastructure across North Dakota. Senate Bill 2301 will create a program to assist childcare providers targeted at increasing their employees' wages. As we all know, there is a provider shortage across the state, and this bill will help increase wages allowing providers to attract and retain qualified professionals. Childcare stabilization is one part of five bills designed to help families and childcare providers retain and expand our workforce.

This legislation establishes a monthly payment system within the Department of Health and Human services budget for licensed childcare centers. Each licensed childcare provider will receive funds outlined on lines 12-14 based on their licensed capacity. The program also will establish financial incentives for meeting voluntary quality improvement standards. When a provider meets the highest level in that quality improvement process, an additional 25% of the total monthly calculation will be given.

Safeguards are placed in the bill ensuring the funds allocated will go towards wages and benefits of childcare workers. They are required to report annually how the funds directly address salaries and benefits. In addition, childcare providers will be removed from the program if they are under a correction order for three months or more.

Lastly, after reviewing comments from childcare providers concerns the amounts we are requesting may need to be increased. The goal of this legislation is to ensure we can attract and retain childcare providers across the state to improve our workforce crisis.

Thank you for listening to this presentation; I will stand for questions.

Ryan Braunberger,  
District 10 State Senator.