

**TESTIMONY**  
**Senate Workforce Development Committee**  
**SB 2301**  
**January 26, 2023**  
**Senator Kathy Hogan**

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Workforce Development committee. I am Senator Kathy Hogan from District 21, the most urban district in ND.

Over the last 12 to 18 months discussion regarding the need to stabilize the childcare infrastructure has generated many creative ideas and suggestions. This is a complex issue, there is not one simple solution. Senate Bill 2301 is the major bill that is targeted at stabilizing the childcare infrastructure by providing direct subsidies to childcare providers.

The other three bills include:

- SB 2237 Childcare tax credit for middle income families
- SB 2238 Early childhood service funds that focus on education and family support such as Best in Class, Head Start and Early Head Start.
- SB 2190 Increases the reimbursement levels for Childcare Assistance program which provides low-income families with financial support and reductions in family co-pays for the lowest income families.

SB 2301 was introduced using a model that was partially implemented during COVID. This bill codified these structures. The rates that were initially put in this bill maybe too low but the basic model of establishing a monthly support payment for all licensed childcare providers in good standing is an essential piece of this multi-pronged approach.

Thank you for your interest in this bill. I hope you will seriously consider this as one of the ways we as a state can strengthen our workforce by stabilizing the childcare system. I am more than willing to answer any questions.