

1/27/2025

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in regard to the bill HB1012, which could cut funding on grants given by North Dakota Health and Human Services. The Inclusion grant is one that we current receive to help our children.

I have worked at a daycare for over 5 years. I started when it was a small at home daycare with 13 children. Now our daycare is at 2 locations with up to 30 children at each location. Since I have started working at a daycare, the number of children needing more 1 on 1 care has increased substantially. We currently have 15 children in our care that have more needs than many daycares can work with.

Whether it is speech delays, OT services, or behavioral needs, the Inclusion grant has been able to provide our daycare with the ability to not only buy specialized supplies that help the children grow, but to be able to keep on more staff so that the children with needs get more care.

Many daycares' staff to children ratios are around 1:10, whereas our daycare has been able to have ratios of around 1:5. This not only helps the children to have that extra support from us, but it helps the mental wellbeing of the staff members. Daycare work is very rewarding, but it is also very mentally and physically exhausting.

We all know that quality daycares in the state are very much needed. Having grants like the Inclusion grant help daycares out in so many ways.

Please do not take away much needed funding that helps the children that need it most.

Thank you for your time,

Bailee Saltzman

Kids 1st Daycare, LLC

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