

I strongly support the proposed bill to amend and enact new sections to Chapter 50-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code. Training requirements for early childhood services staff are proposed to be repealed to streamline and update the training process. This legislation is crucial for enhancing the quality and accessibility of early childhood services in our state. By updating training and certification requirements, we ensure that our early childhood professionals are well-equipped with the latest knowledge and skills to foster the development and well-being of our children. This ensures early childhood professionals stay current with the latest educational practices and child development research. Enhanced training programs will improve classroom management and strategies, leading to better learning environments for children. This includes incorporating new techniques for engaging children and addressing the learning needs of all children, focusing on the understanding that early childhood is a critical period for brain development. High-quality early childhood programming helps children develop foundational skills in math, reading, self-control, and positive relationships, setting them up for long-term success. Aiming to ensure that early childhood professionals are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills while implementing certification programs that can open new career opportunities for early childhood educators, making the profession more attractive and retaining talented and prepared individuals. This bill also represents a significant step towards safeguarding the health, safety, and development of our youngest citizens, our children.