

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in strong support of HB 1012 and the accompanying full funding measures that ensure the continuation of vital child care programs in our community. As the owner of a child care center in Williston, ND, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of well-funded early childhood education and care programs.

Our center proudly serves 140 families, and the “Bright and Early” initiative has been instrumental in delivering high-quality care and educational programming. This program not only supports the social and cognitive development of our children but also lays the foundation for their future success in school and life. The comprehensive resources provided through QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) and additional funding have enabled us to maintain a safe, nurturing, and educational environment for our children.

Without the continued support of programs like “Bright and Early” and the necessary funding that HB 1012 proposes, centers like ours would struggle to meet the evolving needs of our community. The funding supports critical aspects of our service—from maintaining qualified staff and ongoing training, to ensuring our facilities are safe and equipped with the resources that foster early learning and development.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of HB 1012. Your support is not only an investment in our child care infrastructure but also in the future of the children and families who depend on these services. Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to strengthening early childhood education in our community.

Sincerely,

Kenzi Brown