



## Letter of Support – SB 2282

Monday, January 27, 2025

Chairman Weber and members of the Senate Tax and Finance Committee,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2282.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. First, I would like to express our gratitude for the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly's leadership in advancing critical investments into childcare and their commitment to addressing affordability through programs like the Working Parent Childcare Relief Program. However, the challenges with accessing affordable and high-quality childcare persist.

North Dakota continues to grapple with the shortage of childcare slots, particularly for infants and toddlers, due to the high costs associated with providing these essential services. Between 2017-2024 the cost of childcare in North Dakota increased 40% at traditional day care centers, and as much as 50% at home day care centers. High prices associated with childcare have made the cost of this care unattainable for many families. The challenges associated with childcare directly impact the availability and stability of our state's workforce.

By implementing an income tax credit for childcare contributions provided by employers, the state incentivizes private business support, and investment in, their employees through financial assistance for childcare. This credit, accompanied by other state childcare programs and initiatives, provides a broad based, long-term solution to address the rising costs of childcare. It is critical that our state continues to identify and support strategic initiatives, such as this tax credit, to address affordability of childcare.

Addressing North Dakota's childcare shortage is a vital part of solving the workforce issue. Passage of this bill offers additional support to employers and working families, showing the state's commitment to investing in our future. We urge the committee to give this bill a DO PASS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cale Dunwoody".

Sincerely,



Cale Dunwoody  
Vice President of Public Policy  
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce