

Good afternoon,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill No. 2306 as the owner of a childcare facility in Williston, ND, providing 140 licensed childcare spots to our community. Without state funding, maintaining these essential services at a reasonable cost would not be possible.

The Childcare Workforce Recruitment and Retention Program incentive payment would be invaluable to our center. These funds would go directly to our staff for payroll expenses, ensuring that our hardworking child care providers receive a livable wage while allowing us to keep tuition costs down for families.

As we all know, the cost of living has risen tremendously. Grocery bills have doubled, and nearly every supply we need to operate has increased in price. Programs like this help us avoid raising tuition while still providing fair compensation to our dedicated staff. Without this funding, many childcare centers—including ours—would struggle to retain staff and continue offering affordable, high-quality care to families in our community.

I urge you to support Senate Bill No. 2306 to ensure that North Dakota families continue to have access to affordable childcare and that our childcare workforce is supported. I would be happy to answer any questions that arise.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kenzi Brown

Operator