



Senate Bill 2306 Testimony: In Favor
Hon. Mike Wobbema, Chairman
Senate Workforce Development Committee

February 6, 2025

Chairman Wobbema and Committee Members,

My name is Anna Nelson, Executive Director of Williston Economic Development. As is the case across the state, childcare has become a priority within our department as lack of reliable and affordable care for the children of our working parents has proven a hindrance to workforce and economic growth. I am writing to you today to **support** Senate Bill 2306, with a proposed amendment that I respectfully ask this committee to consider.

It has been encouraging to see our state continue to emphasize solutions to childcare challenges. The fact that this bill specifically supports our childcare providers is very welcomed. I refer to their employees as "the workforce that supports our workforce," but it has been a challenge for providers to be able find the balance between paying them a competitive wage and keeping costs low for their parents. The nature of this bill has the potential to benefit both providers and parents by aiming to fill that gap.

After speaking with local providers, I considerately ask that the committee review the following provision of the bill:

- Section 1, lines 21-22: Due to the benign nature of some corrective action orders, perhaps setting some parameters, whether by severity or number of offenses, would help create more guidance and certainty for both providers and licensing professionals
 - Additionally, clarification on the eligibility implications would be helpful (e.g. does this terminally end a provider's eligibility or is there a probationary period, etc.)

Several local childcare providers have offered suggestions and comments that can be shared should the conversation move forward and the committee/bill sponsor desire to consider those.

The potential of this bill to support childcare facilities, some to the tune of more than five thousand dollars per month, is a step in the right direction to alleviate payroll burdens on providers that could also help keep costs from rising for working families.

For these reasons, I urge a **DO PASS** recommendation and appreciate your consideration.

Thank you so much for your time, and please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Anna Nelson

Anna Nelson
Executive Director

annan@ci.williston.nd.us
(c) 701-651-8265