

Testimony
Senate Workforce Committee
SB 2389
Senator Kathy Hogan
Feb 13, 2025

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Committee, for the record my name is Kathy Hogan. I represent District 21, which is central Fargo and a portion of West Fargo.

Last session, we enacted many new initiatives primarily through HB 1540. Here is the link to the overview of the Governor's budget on early childhood services.

https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/69-2025/testimony/HAPPHUM-1012-20250128-32188-F-LARSON_KAY.pdf There are a range of amendment for HB 1012 on childcare that are attached to this document. I am pleased to tell you that an employer tax credit SB 2282 for support of childcare funding by employer has passed the Senate.

Over the last two years, we have increased reimbursement rates for childcare assistance, but currently only 20% of the eligible children/families use the benefit. We have tried many approaches, but we continue to hear from families who are paying \$25,000-35,000/year for two children in care that they need help. Providers report that most wages are still in the \$12-14/hour range without benefits. There continues to be a crisis for employers and family.

You should be aware that the House has turned a re-write of the childcare licensing rules into a childcare licensing study HB 1119 (attached) and Senator Beard had an amendment to structure the study differently (attached). I support the Beard amendment, but would recommend that there are at least 2 representatives from the Senate and House.

This bill has been developed in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and the childcare community. Thank you for considering SB 2389 I am more than willing to answer any questions.