2011 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2335

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2335
January 31, 2011
13743

☐ Conference Committee

TA Monson

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

This bill will direct the department of human services to spend up to $2 million dollars for child care assistance to assist a caretaker to get a college degree.

Minutes: *Attached testimony*

Chairman Senator J. Lee opened the hearing on SB 2335 a bill for an act to provide for an appropriation to the department of human services for expanding child care assistance to eligible caretakers in pursuit of a postsecondary degree or certificate.

Senator Mathern, District #11, introduced SB 2335. Written testimony #1

Senator Berry asked if there was a proposal for any standard of academic performance.

Senator Mathern replied yes, there are those requirements that are associated with this eligibility process.

Senator Berry asked Senator Mathern to outline a couple.

Senator Mathern said that there has to be evidence about attendance at such a program. The attendance is monitored by the institution. He said that the department of human services could better answer the specifics when they testify.

Senator Berry asked if he, as a sponsor, would be comfortable with setting some academic requirements and number of hours taken.

Senator Mathern answered, absolutely.

Senator Lee noted that the bill calls for a two million dollar appropriation from TANF funds and the department will share that information on that availability.

Andrea Hochhalter testified in support of SB 2335. Written testimony #2

Senator Mathern said that in her testimony she noted the impact on the children. What impact do you see on the children of these parents that go to college versus the children of parents not going to college?

Ms. Hochhalter said that the impact in children happen in a couple of ways. Children witness the education dream of their parents and they see how this impacts their parents after they earn that degree. Children often want to aspire to do the same.

Senator Berry asked if she was aware of any other states having this four year child care program. If so, are there any results?

Ms. Hochhalter answered that her closest experience is with Minnesota. They provide assistance for those in a four year program.

Senator Berry asked if she could get the information and documentation of how it is working.

Ms. Hochhalter said that she could get him that information.

Renee Stromme, Executive Director of the North Dakota Women's Network, testified in support of SB 2335. Written testimony #3

Penny Smith testified in support of SB 2335. Child care assistance played a crucial part in her journey to self sufficiency after the birth of her daughter. Written testimony #4

Ms. Smith also hand delivered a testimony in support of SB 2335 from Amber Schwab, another woman who has experienced success after receiving this assistance. Written testimony #5

Paul Ronningen, State Coordinator for the Children's Defense Fund, testified in support of SB 2335. Written testimony #6

Connie Hildebrand representing AAUW-ND testified in support of SB 2335. Written testimony #7

There was no opposition to SB 2335.

Carol Cartledge, Director of Public Assistance Division of the Department of Human Services, provided information to help the committee in their deliberations on SB 2335. Attachment #8

Senator Lee asked if a person who had a year of school and it was interrupted, can she choose to use the two years of assistance to complete her four year degree.

Ms. Cartledge said that as long as they don't already have a degree or certificate they can pursue a one or two year degree program. She added that if there was funding available they could utilize it for a four year. There has never been enough money to do this.

Senator Mathern asked if the two million dollars that this bill has in it will allow them to fund people coming forward for a four year degree.

Ms. Cartledge deferred the question.

Deb McDermott, Assistant Director of Fiscal Administration, said that they do not have any other federal funds within the department to use for child care assistance. When they receive federal funds they usually come with stipulations on what they can be used for. She said that this bill is saying to use TANF money. She said they get 52.8 million dollars a biennium for TANF. They are spending 57.8 million or 5 million dollars more of TANF money than they are drawing down. They have been able to do this because they have had carryover from previous years.

Senator Lee asked if the carryover funds have been spent on new programs or existing programs or if the federal funding has dropped.

Ms. McDermott said that the money has stayed consistent since the block grant started in 1996. The TANF caseload has continued to increase but the majority of the increase in the spending is in the foster care and child welfare area.

Senator Dever asked if we use more TANF money for the child care assistance program will that affect other programs.

Ms. McDermott said they would have to find general fund dollars to fund the other things they funded in their budget with TANF monies. She said they are also concerned with the sustainability of funding the child care costs.

Discussion continued on past carryover funds and present biennium spending. The carryover is due to the very first years of receiving the block grant, not all the monies were spent. That carryover is gradually being depleted. That is why they can't sustain it.

Senator Uglem said that it was his understanding that we only allow two years of assistance whether that is for a two year program or a four year program. Is that correct or could someone qualify for all four years.

Ms. McDermott replied that it is for a one or two year degree or a certificate.

Senator Lee explained that we were enabled to assist the four year degrees for two years but it is not funded and the two year degree and certificates have been the priority with the funds available.

Senator Uglem said that if we pass this bill as it is, it is just a feel good bill, it doesn't really do anything.

Senator Lee said that her concern is that we would be promising funds to students and not able to deliver.

Carol Cartledge clarified that this morning it was talked about that TANF is the ones that receive child care assistance, TANF is a portion of those that receive assistance. It is really low income families and TANF. The largest portion is really low income families that receive assistance by child care.

Senator J. Lee closed the public hearing on SB 2335.

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Human Services Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2335
February 7, 2011
14113

☐ Conference Committee

JM Morton

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Minutes: *Discussion/Action*

Chairman Senator J. Lee opened SB 2335 for discussion. The bill is to provide for an appropriation to expand child care assistance to those parents seeking a four year degree. She stated that the legislature passed the philosophical idea of supporting a four year degree in the last session but it has not been implemented because there has not been adequate funding to support doing it. The discussion has been that two years are available of child care assistance but in order to manage the cost it has been limited to those who are pursuing a one or a two year program, rather than someone who is pursuing a four year degree. She asked if they were going to support the idea of an additional two million dollar appropriation to provide child care for those pursuing the four year degree.

Senator Mathern said the intent of this bill was to put more money into this program and the concept being that these are the people most likely able to stay off assistance in the future because they will have a higher earning potential from a four year degree than a two year.

Senator Mathern moved a Do Pass on SB 2335 and rerefer to Appropriations.

Senator Berry seconded the motion.

Senator Dever asked if when this program was discontinued if that was an Executive Branch decision or legislatively and if it was an Executive Branch decision, they should have the ability to reinstate if money is available.

Senator Lee replied that would be her impression that they already have authority to do this they just don't have the money to do it.

Discussion followed on authority and the fact that the policy has been approved. The money has never been available to fund the four year.

Senator Mathern stated that this bill says that we recognize the policy is in effect and the department could fund the four year degree but they have not done it because they say that they don't have enough dollars. He said that this bill says, "Here are some dollars."

Senator Lee said that TANF, or original welfare reform, did not permit us to use the child care dollars that were in welfare reform for four year programs. Senator Lee said that she didn't think they ever paid for a four year program.

Senator Mathern answered yes, and thought it was before welfare reform. He gave some personal history of when he worked with women to gain that degree at Jamestown College and NDSU, twenty years ago. These women were getting child care assistance.

Senator Dever referred to Renee Stromme's testimony where she says, "Prior to 2004, North Dakota's expanded program did allow TANF parents to be enrolled in a four year, baccalaureate program and receive childcare assistance for the entire four years, as long as they remained eligible. However, that policy was changed in 2004 due to budget cuts."

Discussion followed on the deficiency in TANF dollars.

Senator Lee said that the department made it clear that the carry over is being depleted and future sustainability is not viable. She said that the block grant, first and foremost must be used to support the TANF program and emergency assistance which is foster care and other services.

Roll call vote: 2-3-0. **Motion failed**.

Senator Uglem commented that anyone still seeking a two year degree still qualifies for child care assistance and if they want to go for an additional two years they at least have had the two years of child care assistance. He said that it is a choice of where to put the money.

Discussion followed.

Senator Uglem moved a **Do Not Pass**.

Senator Dever seconded.

Roll call vote: 3-2-0. **Motion passed.**

Carrier is **Senator Lee**.

Attachment #9 – Additional information: JoAnn Brager
Renee Stromme

Date: 2-7-2011

Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2335

Senate **HUMAN SERVICES** Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment

☒ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By **Sen.** Mathern Seconded By **Sen.** Berry

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Sen. Judy Lee, Chairman		✓	**Sen. Tim Mathern**	✓	
Sen. Dick Dever		✓			
Sen. Gerald Uglem, V. Chair		✓			
Sen. Spencer Berry	✓				

Total (Yes) 2 No 3

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2-7-2011

Roll Call Vote # 2

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2335

Senate **HUMAN SERVICES** Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☐ Do Pass ☒ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment

☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By **Sen.** Uglem Seconded By **Sen.** Dever

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Sen. Judy Lee, Chairman	✓		**Sen. Tim Mathern**		✓
Sen. Dick Dever	✓				
Sen. Gerald Uglem, V. Chair	✓				
Sen. Spencer Berry		✓			

Total (Yes) 3 No 2

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. J. Lee

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2335: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (3 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2335 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

SB 2335

#1

Senate Human Services Committee
January 31, 2011
Senator Tim Mathern

Madame Chairman Lee and Members of the Human Service Committee

My name is Tim Mathern. I am the Senator from District 11 in Fargo and I am here to introduce SB 2335. **Passage of this bill will direct the Department of Human Services to spend up to $2 million dollars for child care assistance to assist a caretaker to get a college degree.**

In the early years of my career I worked with young women who were pregnant early in life, usually much earlier than they or their families were prepared for.

One young lady graduated from high school and then went on to get a 4 year nurse degree. Now she is a responsible professional in her community, a wife and a mother of more children. What went on over 20 years ago to make the present situation so positive?

Access to child care was a key ingredient. Our state used to subsidize child care for women attending college. Without it they could not focus on the demands of a college education. Members of the committee, child care assistance for those getting a four year degree is a great investment for our society. The jobs that come about because of these degrees help people stay out of poverty permanently and make permanent tax payers of the people benefitting from the program.

(Review bill- note sections and budget turn back)

I am happy to address any questions you have. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I ask you to give this bill a Do Pass recommendation and rerefer to Appropriations.

Andrea Hochhalter
6939 Riverdale Drive
Horace, ND 58047

#2

January31, 2011

The Honorable Judy Lee
Human Services Committee
Re: Support for Senate Bill No. 2335

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee, Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Bill No. 2335, a bill to appropriate money to four year institution attendance without exceeding beyond two years of subsidies.

My name is Andrea Hochhalter, a community member with a strong value system in helping others and an equally strong belief in the life-long significance of a higher education.

I've had the privilege in the last 1.5 years to become more acquainted with a demographic in our state and in my community, a population of single mothers living in poverty who have the drive to lift themselves up and transform their lives through post-secondary education. I have gained this experience through my work with Jeremiah Program, a non-profit with a mission to break the cycle of poverty through education and gainful employment. Yet it is not Jeremiah Program that I am here speaking for today.

I am here because two years ago the policy to allow for child care subsidies when enrolled in a four year degree school was approved, now I am asking the legislature to put the money into it because I believe it is in the best interest of the future of our state.

Given the change to policy to include child care assistance for those working on their four year degree was approved in the last biennium, I have to believe the same leadership wants to put the policy fully into action. I have read the hearing minutes from 09 HB1090 and noted there was widespread support of the idea of allowing those seeking assistance to choose to pursue a four year degree. Doing so gives the same two years of subsidies not only to those passionate about their two year degree or certificate but also to those with dreams and a drive to obtain their bachelor's degree.

Education has the ability to transform the life of the student and those around them. Let the student have the choice between a two year degree or four year degree, choosing when they apply the two year subsidy, versus being pressured by legislation to select the two year degree or certificate when their passion lies elsewhere with a four year degree. It takes ambition and tenacity to enroll in a four year degree program, let's reward these students by granting them the same opportunity as those enrolled in a two year degree program.

What do we have to lose? nothing

What do we have to gain? Everything - a community of educated citizens passionate about their career choices, potential increase in N.D. residents earning a bachelor's degree with opportunity for greater earning potential resulting in improved ability to provide for their families, increase their savings, decrease dependency on public assistance, and in turn give back to their communities.

This is my testimony, but what about the testimony of Iman Moore, a 22 year old mother of three enrolled in college at North Dakota State University working on a major in Political Science and minor in Business Administration.

Iman is an amazing woman and mother whom I've had the privilege to meet and learn from. Iman like any other mother works to keep balance in her life and like any other student she is excited about her future, working diligently to stay on top of her coursework.

Iman is passionate about getting her degree because she wants to work in a field where she can give back to her community. She chose to get a bachelor's degree in her areas of study because she felt it was the best way for her to achieve her long-term goals. Iman grew up on the Forth Berthold reservation in White Shield, ND.

Iman works part-time as a tutor while her children are in child care, making a negligible amount of money. Her tuition at NDSU is paid for through grants, otherwise would be upward of $10,000 a year. Her apartment rent is $630 a month and child care costs are $2,000/mo. The financial math says that Iman cannot afford to attend NDSU working on her B.S. degree without additional support, be it family, friends, or state and county services.

With child care assistance Iman's scenario changes and her child care costs decrease by $1,380/month, a considerable amount for anyone, single parent or not. And this along with family support is how Iman is able to continue to be working on her B.S. degree at NDSU and every day be getting closer to obtaining her dream of offering her children a new opportunity in life, being able to provide for them, and eventually give back to the community she is passionate about.

During my time with Iman she shared with me that if she wasn't receiving assistance with child care costs, her greatest financial expense, she doesn't believe she would be able to be working on her B.S. degree. Best case she likes to think she'd be working on her degree, yet knows it would require working many more hours outside of school and home and in the evenings, requiring her to manage to a new stress level while caring for her children.

These are my thoughts and the story of Iman, what about the data, what does that tell us?

Important figures for N.D., all pulled from the 2009 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, include:

I. Single parent households in N.D. are 3.26 times more likely to be living in poverty than married-couple households with 7,077 single parents living in poverty and 2,170 married couples with children living in poverty in our state.

II. Earnings of Females in N.D.

- Forty-seven percent of single mothers earn less than 20K
- By Educational Attainment:

high school - $17,963

some college or B.A.- $23,188

(29% increase over high school degree)

bachelor's degree - $32,261

(39% increase over associates)

Over a lifetime the compounded increase in earnings is easily a six figure number but the greater impact is in increased ability to provide for family and provide an example of working and succeeding to their children so they to aspire to do the same.

Additionally, the College board, a not-for-profit composed of more than 5,900 colleges, universities, and secondary schools collected years of data points representing the many benefits of higher education. In the majority of cases the benefits grow with the level of education obtained. Examples include:

- Increase in community volunteerism, job satisfaction and sense of accomplishment, voting rate, health and wellness, school readiness of children in the home
- Decrease in obesity, smoking, unemployment rate, poverty, and public expenditure per person

The data is telling me that N.D. has a population of families who struggle with poverty on regular basis. It also shows that for those who obtain an advanced degree their earning potential grows considerably. Additionally research reinforces the exponential benefits associated with higher levels of education. Let's support equally those that choose to fulfill their educational, career, and personal goals whether it is a two year or four year degree by making the two years' worth of child care subsidy available to all. Like Iman who is transforming her life, the lives of her three children, and is on the path of being a positive contributor to our community, let's ensure this opportunity exists for others.

In closing I'd like to share a quote from a well-known Irish Poet, William Yeats;

- "Education is not the filling a bucket but the lighting of a fire."

Let's not smother the fires of our state's future, but let's stoke the fires that exist in those who are driven to obtain a higher education, specifically a four year degree. This investment in child care is an investment in education which is an investment in the future of N.D.

Thank you for your time to hear my testimony in support of Bill No. 2335.

Andrea Hochhalter

Andrea Hochhalter

#3

Senate Human Services Committee
Senate Bill 2335
January 31, 2011

Good morning, Chairman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Renee Stromme and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Women's Network. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2335 which would allow eligible TANF recipients pursuing a one-year, two- year or four-year postsecondary education program to receive childcare assistance beyond the current two-year limit.

The North Dakota Women's Network serves as a catalyst for improving the lives of women through communication, legislation and increased public activism. We are a statewide organization with members from every corner of the state.

Prior to 2004, North Dakota's expanded program did allow TANF parents to be enrolled in a four year, baccalaureate program and receive childcare assistance for the entire four years, as long as they remained eligible. However, that policy was changed in 2004 due to budget cuts.

Then, two years ago a bill passed that gave the Department of Human Services the ability to expand the program subject to the availability of funding within the Department's existing budget. The Department opted not to expand the program.

Senate Bill 2335 would provide the funding for the Department of Human Services to restore expanded childcare assistance for TANF parents trying to better themselves through education.

Quality childcare comes at a price. And while this can be a challenge for any North Dakota parent trying to make ends meet, it is especially true for TANF parents trying to better themselves through education. Without support for childcare, many women must make the choice to stop or delay their educational pursuits best suited for them.

As an example, a low income student with dependent children interested in a nursing career would only be eligible for childcare subsidies in a CNA or LPN program at a trade school. If she were interested in an RN program at a 4-year ND university, she would not be eligible for the subsidies. Such a limitation holds individuals back from their optimal potential. This specific example does not align with needs of the community given the ever expanding need for Registered Nurses.

Job skills and educational credentials have value in the labor market and higher levels of education are closely associated with increased earnings and lower rates of unemployment. According to research conducted at Georgetown University, by 2018 seventy percent of jobs will require postsecondary education in North Dakota. Childcare subsidies could play a key role in helping our citizens meet the additional educational requirements of those jobs.

Given the long-term payoff from education and training, North Dakota should restore childcare assistance to TANF families enrolled in longer-term education and training programs. Therefore, we urge your support of SB 2335.

Renee Stromme
Executive Director
renee@ndwomen.org
701-223-6985

#4

January 31, 2011

Senator Chair Lee, Senator Vice Chair, and Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Penny Smith and I would like to testify in favor of Senate Bill 2335.

Child care assistance played a crucial part in my journey to self sufficiency after the birth of my daughter. It was that assistance that supported me while I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. Because I was able to complete a Bachelor's degree, many more employment opportunities were available to me at a significantly higher wage. Before and while I attended college my daughter and I received many supportive services including housing assistance, food stamps, Medicaid, and child care assistance. I am proud to say that because of that support I was able to focus on my studies and graduated with honors. I have been able to use my degree to secure employment that has led to long-term financial self sufficiency.

I have also seen first hand while previously employed as a coordinator for the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Program (JOBS) in North Dakota the outcome for many clients that were receiving child care assistance for only two years while attending college. While those clients obtaining a two year degree or certificate where able to secure employment at a wage higher than the minimum wage; it was not enough to free them from the need of supportive services.

I encourage you to support this bill which will support many of our North Dakota young people to complete degrees and gain sustaining employment within our state.

Thank you Senator Chair, Senator Vice Chair, and Members of the Human Services Committee for this opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 2335.

Sincerely,

Penny Smith

psmith88@msn.com; 220-0842

#5

January 31, 2011

Senator Chair Lee, Senator Vice Chair, and Members of the Human Services Committee.

My name is Amber Schwab and I would like to write a letter of support the Senate Bill 2335. Nationally, only 2 percent of teen moms have a college degree by age thirty. Knowing this has helped me appreciate the support I received while attending college in ND. Child Care assistance allowed me the opportunity to obtain a 4 year degree from North Dakota State University in Child Development and Family Science. While attending college I had 2 part-time jobs, however it wasn't enough to cover the high costs of child care. I have been able to provide my son with a better life as a result of the child care assistance program.

Sincerely,

Amber Schwab

Amber Schwab

kaschwab@bis.midco.net

701-258-2183

#6

SB 2335
Senate Human Services Committee
January 31, 2011

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Paul Ronningen, State Coordinator for the Children's Defense Fund – North Dakota. I am also representing the North Dakota Economic Security and Prosperity Alliance (NDESPA) and the North Dakota Conference of Social Welfare.

The Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

Senate Bill 2335 provides funding for additional authority to provide childcare assistance to students pursuing a four year degree. Though the Department was previously given this authority and reports a carryover of $12. 8 million in general funds and roll-up in the TANF program of 13 million dollars, it is important to give the Department the authority and dollars in the same bill. This will erase any confusion about the desire and intent of the legislature.

According to Wilder Research (2009), over the next decade, most of the 120,000 new jobs and job openings due to retirements will require post-secondary education and training. Jobs requiring less education and low skills in

manufacturing and farming are being automated or shipped offshore to take advantage of cheaper labor.

This bill will enable North Dakota to move forward in creating a strong and needed work force of students pursuing and achieving four year degrees, provide appropriate care for the children of these students and reinforce North Dakotans demand that once a child is born, that child should provided safe and secure care.

On behalf of the Children's Defense Fund, North Dakota Conference of Social Welfare and the North Dakota Economic Security and Prosperity Alliance, I recommend that the Committee pass SB 2335.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have at this time.

#7

AAUW

TESTIMONY on SB 2335
January 31, 2011

Chairman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

My name is Connie M. Hildebrand and I represent AAUW-ND. We support SB 2335.

Founded in 1881, AAUW has championed the rights of women and girls in higher education and the workplace for 130 years. During this time, women have gone from a tiny minority on college campuses in 1881 to a majority of the student body today. Women currently receive 57% of all college degrees.

Why? Because women recognize that to support and care for their families they need to pursue higher education. The motivation to pursue education, however, is not enough. Women need family-friendly support, flexible class scheduling, and *child care* as well. This is what enables all women to attain successive levels of education, boost their earnings in today's economy, and either maintain or obtain self-sufficiency - while they juggle the multiple familial responsibilities we all face.

It is not news that child-care costs are high. You know what your family members or constituents are expending in this family-budget category. I attach the ND Child Care Resource & Referral profile for your additional review. The child care cost challenges are greatest however, for the low-income women of our state – including those women pursuing a four-year education – who will actively contribute their fair-share to the tax base of tomorrow's North Dakota.

This bill assures the family-friendly provision of child-care subsidy to low-income women in four-year degree programs, which is needed to realize their dreams, and promote the prosperity of North Dakota in the process.

It is not a simple task to attain a four-year college degree - or more. It's takes a lot of work, a lot of effort. I did it, but within my experience I've watched many other women struggle & succeed on that road with a lot more baggage than I had to carry.

These stalwart women want a better life for their children, but also for the state of ND. How can you possibly deny them that?

Give them the child care assistance they need now, that they may sustain care for their children, their families, in the future.

AAUW-ND asks that you sign on in support.
Vote yes, on SB 2335.

NORTH DAKOTA CCR&R CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

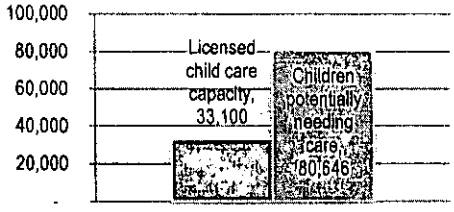
Child Care Profile

September, 2010

North Dakota

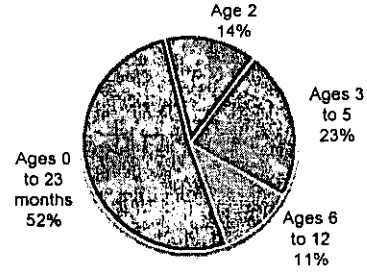
Children Potentially Needing Child Care

	0-2 yrs	3 yrs	4-5 yrs	6-12 yrs	Total
Children in County by Age[1]	24,682	7,791	14,946	52,486	99,905
% of Mothers with Children Ages 0 to 5 in Labor Force[1]					76.1%
% of Mothers with Children Ages 6 to 17 in Labor Force[1]					84.9%
Children Ages 0 to 5 potentially needing child care due to mother in workforce					36,086
Children Ages 6 to 12 potentially needing child care due to mother in workforce					44,561
Capacity of licensed child care programs (family, group, center, school-age)					33,100
Current Child Care Assistance Program Recipients Age 0-13[1]					8,300



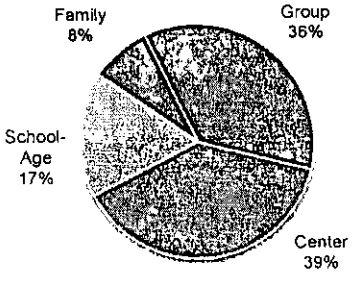
Referral Requests (July 2009 to June 2010, includes CCR&R phone inquiries and internet searches)

Total children needing care as requested through CCR&R[2]	9,601
Ages 0 to 23 months	4,986
Age 2	1,355
Ages 3 to 5	2,182
Ages 6 to 12	1,078
Total children needing care before 7:00 a.m.	1,073
Total children needing care beyond 6:00 p.m.	724
Total children needing care Saturdays or Sundays	387



Licensed Early Childhood Program Type, Capacity, and Enrollment[4] (2010)

	Family	Group	Center	School-Age[3]	Total
[redacted]r of Programs	394	844	139	45	1,422
[redacted]d Capacity	2,758	11,900	12,801	5,641	33,100
[redacted]eported Enrollment[5]	2,143	8,502	8,188	1,703	20,536
Reported Vacancies[6]	385	845	684	525	2,439
Providers/Capacity Added[2]	91/637	63/880	8/439	5/269	167/2225
Providers/Capacity Lost[2]	67/469	101/1482	3/241	5/177	176/2369
Programs open before 7:00 a.m.	92	301	79	26	498
Programs open after 6:00 p.m.	23	53	13	0	89
Programs open on Weekends	10	17	5	0	32
Reported Size of Workforce	382	1,326	2,212	458	4,378



Annual Cost of Licensed Child Care[4]

	Family and Group		Center	
Age of Child	Average	Highest Rate	Average	Highest Rate
Ages 0 to 11 months	$6,069	$11,700	$7,503	$10,530
12 to 23 months	$6,046	$11,700	$7,464	$10,530
Age 2	$5,839	$11,700	$7,130	$10,530
Ages 3 to 5	$5,748	$11,700	$6,628	$10,530

www.ndchildcare.org

[1] 2009 ND Kids Count Fact Book
[2] ND CCRR June 2010 NACCRRAware Database
[3] School-age care numbers reflect programs licensed exclusively as before and after school programs under Early Childhood Services rules. School-age children are also enrolled in family/group programs and child care centers
[4] ND CCRR September 2010 NACCRRAware Database
[redacted]t all programs surveyed reported their current enrollment. Data is based on an approximate 85% response rate.
[redacted]ancies change daily and may not match the location or program characteristics desired by families needing care. A 10% vacancy rate allows families [redacted] choice among programs.

#8

Testimony
Senate Bill 2335 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 31, 2011

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Carol Cartledge, Director of Public Assistance Division of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you with information on Senate Bill 2335.

The Child Care Assistance program, by federal regulations, must assist low-income families in obtaining child care so they may work or attend training/education. Currently, the Child Care Assistance program provides assistance for an average of 442 cases per month in which the caretaker is pursuing a one or two year postsecondary vocational education program with an average monthly cost per case are $225.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) anticipated carryover into the 2013-2015 biennium is estimated to be $8 million. The department receives $52.8 million a biennium however the spending is expected to exceed the grant amount. Future sustainability is not viable using TANF funds to expand child care assistance to eligible caretakers pursuing postsecondary four year degree. First and foremost, the block grant must be used to support the TANF program and Emergency Assistance (foster care and other services).

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.

#9

SB 2335: An appropriation to expand child care assistance to eligible caretakers in pursuit of a postsecondary degree or certificate

To: Senator J. Lee and members of the senate human services committee

My name is JoAnn Brager and I am the Vice President of Public Policy for the North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children. NDAEYC represents approximately 400 members who work with or on behalf of children ages birth to eight years of age. NDAEYC's mission is "To serve and act on behalf of the needs, rights and education of all young children."

NDAEYC strongly supports the ability for the department of human services to expand child care assistance to eligible caretakers who are looking to further their college education. Research has shown that a child's educational level can be directly tied to the child's mother's education level. This is an opportunity to promote education for North Dakota's youngest citizens by supporting parents in pursuing college degrees.

Thank you for your time today and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Date: February 3, 2011

To: Senate Human Services Committee

From: Renee Stromme (#265), North Dakota Women's Network

Re: Senate Bill 2335 – Childcare Subsidies for Higher Education

---

Dear Senators,

Attached is some follow up information regarding what other states allow for child care subsidies. This is the most recent data available and it is admittedly a bit outdated. This information does give insight as to the broad support for child care assistance to low income students at 4 year institutions.

Best, Renee

Renee Stromme
renee@ndwomen.org
701-226-1116

PARENTS IN SCHOOL AND ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

In addition to tracking trends in state policies in four areas (eligibility, waiting lists, copayments, and reimbursement rates), the National Women's Law Center's annual update on state child care assistance policies each year will highlight a different policy issue affecting families' access to quality, affordable care. This year, information was collected on state policies regarding assistance for parents attending school.

Child care assistance is essential not only for parents who are working, but also for parents who are going to school in order to improve their chances of getting a stable job with decent pay. Education clearly makes a difference to a woman's earning potential—in 2004, median earnings were just $13,951 for women over twenty-five who did not graduate from high school, compared to $20,928 for those who graduated high school but did not go on to college, $24,586 for those with some college, and $39,330 for those with four-year college degrees.[5] Recognizing this, all states allow at least some parents in school to receive child care assistance through the Child Care and Development Block Grant.[6] However, many states place restrictions on this assistance. For example, some states set time limits on how long a parent can receive child care assistance while in school or require parents to be working while attending school (see Table 5).[7]

- About one-quarter of the states require some or all parents to work while in school in order to be eligible for child care assistance. Among these states, the most typical requirement is for twenty hours of work per week.[8] Some states only require parents in school to work under certain circumstances. For example, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana, and Pennsylvania require students in postsecondary school to work but not those in high school, and New York only requires it for a four-year degree program.[9]
- A few states do not require parents to work, but do require parents to have a certain total number of hours of activities a week, whether with school alone or a combination of school and work, to receive child care assistance. For example, South Dakota requires activities totaling eighty hours per month, Tennessee requires forty hours per week, and Louisiana requires twenty-five hours per week.[10]
- The majority of states allow parents to receive child care assistance while working toward a four-year undergraduate degree. Yet a number of states have more restrictive policies on how long parents can stay in school or on the degree they can pursue while receiving child care assistance. For example, Alabama, Iowa, North Carolina, Utah, and Wisconsin only allow parents to receive child care assistance while in school for a maximum of two years. Michigan typically limits the assistance to the final year of a training or education program. Georgia limits child care assistance to twelve months of vocational education, and Washington limits assistance to thirty-six months of vocational education.[11]
- Some states set other restrictions on the type of education a parent can be receiving if they are to be eligible for child care assistance. For example, Texas and Utah indicated that they require that the training and education prepare the parent for a job in a field where there is a high demand for workers.[12]
- A few states, such as Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, and Rhode Island, only provide child care assistance to parents in school if they are receiving welfare.[13]
- Even if parents attending school are eligible for child care assistance, they may not receive it because the state places a low priority on serving them. For example, Oregon provides assistance to only a very limited number of parents in school.[14]

TABLE 5: PARENTS IN SCHOOL AND ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE 2005

State	Are parents in school eligible?	Must parents also be working?	Number of hours of work required per week	Maximum number of years of education or training and/or highest level of degree allowed
Alabama	Yes	No	NA	24 months, Bachelor's degree
Alaska	Yes	No	NA	No limits specified
Arizona*	Yes	Yes	20 hours	No limits specified
Arkansas	Yes	No	NA	15 semesters or 5 years
California	Yes	No	NA	No limits specified
Colorado*	Yes, depending on county	No	NA	48 months, Bachelor's degree (counties can set stricter limits)
Connecticut	Yes, but only if receiving TANF	No	NA	No limits specified
Delaware*	Yes, but only if receiving TANF or Food Stamps	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
District of Columbia*	Yes	No, if full-time student	20 hours for work/school if part-time	Bachelor's degree
Florida	Yes	Yes	20 hours	No limits specified
Georgia*	Yes	No	NA	12 months, technical or vocational program
Hawaii	Yes, but only if receiving TANF	No, but must be agreed on	NA	Parent expected to be pursuing goal
Idaho	Yes	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
Illinois*	Yes	Yes, for postsecondary education	10 hours	Bachelor's degree
Indiana	Yes	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
Iowa	Yes, if enrolled full time in approved program	No	NA	24 months (lifetime limit), Bachelor's degree
Kansas*	Yes	Yes	20 hours	Determined case by case
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	20 hours	3 years for Associate degree, 5 years for Bachelor's degree
Louisiana*	Yes	No, but activity requirement	25 hours for work/school	No limits specified
Maine	Yes	No	NA	No limits specified
Maryland	Yes	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
Massachusetts*	Yes	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
Michigan*	Yes, in some circumstances	Yes	20 hours	Usually limited to final year of program
Minnesota*	Yes	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
Mississippi	Yes	Yes, for postsecondary education	25 hours	No limits specified
Missouri*	Yes	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
Montana*	Yes	Yes, for postsecondary education	10 hours	Bachelor's degree
Nebraska	Yes	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
Nevada	Yes	No	NA	10 semesters if not working; no limit if working
New Hampshire*	Yes	No	NA	2 or 3 years, Bachelor's degree (TANF); 2 years, Associate degree (non-TANF)
New Jersey	Yes	No	NA	No limits specified
New Mexico*	Yes	No	NA	No limits specified
New York*	Yes, depending on county	Yes, for 4-year degree programs	12.5 hours	Bachelor's degree; 30 months for Associate degree
North Carolina*	Yes	No	NA	2 years for postsecondary school or skills training
North Dakota	Yes, for vocational education	No	NA	Vocational, professional, or technical education (not eligible for Bachelor's degree)
Ohio	Yes	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
Oklahoma	Yes	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
Oregon*	Yes, but only a very limited number served	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes, for postsecondary education	25 hours	No limits specified
Rhode Island*	Yes, but only if receiving TANF	No, initially	NA	Limit depends on TANF requirements
South Carolina	Yes	No	NA	No limits specified
South Dakota*	Yes	No, but activity requirement	80 hours a month for work/school	Bachelor's degree
Tennessee*	Yes	No, but activity requirement	30 hours for work/school	Bachelor's degree
Texas	Yes	No	NA	4 years, degree in high-demand occupation
Utah	Yes	Yes	15 hours	2 years, degree or certificate in a marketable field
Vermont*	Yes	No	NA	Bachelor's degree
Virginia*	Yes	No, except TANF recipients	5 hours for TANF work component	No limits specified
Washington	Yes	Yes	20 hours (16 hours for work-study)	36 months, vocational education
West Virginia	Yes	No	NA	No limits specified
Wisconsin*	Yes	Yes	Determined case by case	2 years
Wyoming	Yes	No	NA	Bachelor's degree

** notes on following pages*

Montana: To receive assistance, parents must work 10 hours per week if attending school full time.

New Hampshire: Parents receiving TANF are eligible for child care assistance while working toward their Bachelor's degree for up to two years of full-time study or three years of part-time study. Parents not receiving TANF are eligible for child care assistance while working toward their Associate degree for up to two years.

New Mexico: Parents not receiving TANF and attending school are not subject to any work requirements or limits on the years or level of schooling in order to qualify for child care assistance. However, parents receiving TANF and attending school may be subject to work requirements or other limitations.

New York: Counties set their own priorities for child care assistance and may, but are not required to, pay for child care for parents attending postsecondary education. Counties have the option to provide child care assistance to parents in community college if the course of study does not take more than 30 months and leads to an Associate degree or certificate of completion. Counties also have the option to pay for child care for parents in a four-year program leading to a Bachelor's degree, but the parent must be working at least 17½ hours per week.

North Carolina: There is a time limit on child care assistance while a parent is attending postsecondary school or a skills-training program, but there is no time limit for parents attending continuing elementary or high school education programs provided by the local school system, community college, or technical institutes, or engaging in Work First Employment Services training-related activities.

Oregon: Teen parents can receive child care assistance to attend high school if they are in the JOBS program. In addition, a small number of parents (about 200) can receive assistance to attend a two- or four-year college.

Pennsylvania: Parents who are under age 22 and in high school are exempt from any work requirements. Also note that the state planned to reduce the number of hours parents were required to work to only 10 hours a week if they were attending postsecondary school 10 hours a week, effective July 1, 2005.

Rhode Island: Parents in school initially do not have to be working to receive child care assistance but at some point in their Family Independence Plan (TANF) they do have to work to receive assistance.

South Dakota: Parents are not required to work while in school to be eligible for child care assistance, but they must be participating in school and/or work activities for a total of 80 hours per month.

Tennessee: Parents must participate in school and/or work activities for a total of 40 hours per week to be eligible for assistance, although the state accepts 30 to 40 hours per week when the employer considers full-time employment to be less than 40 hours, or the economic conditions of the area make 40 hours per week unrealistic. Parents receive credit for one hour of study for each hour of class. Students participating in post-graduate education are not eligible for assistance unless they meet activity requirements through work hours exclusively.

Utah: If a parent is pursuing a four-year degree, the state will only provide child care assistance to cover the last two years of the program.

Vermont: Parents attending school can receive child care assistance in accordance with the plan they establish with the state. Parents are not necessarily required to be working in order to be eligible for assistance; they can be in school full time. The state will not pay for a Master's degree if a parent already has a Bachelor's degree.

Virginia: Parents may receive child care assistance while in school if it is an approved plan.

Wisconsin: Authorization for child care assistance while attending an institution of higher education is possible. The parent must be in an approved employment-related activity, the number of hours of employment-related activity is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Notes for Table 5: Parents in School and Eligibility for Child Care Assistance

Arizona: There is no limit on the number of years or the level of schooling for parents to receive child care assistance while in school. However, the course of study must be related to the parent's employment goal and satisfactory progress must be maintained.

Colorado: Counties determine whether to allow parents to be eligible for child care assistance while in school; as of February 2005, it was allowed in 47 out of 64 counties. Counties also determine the amount of time for which parents can receive assistance while in school. The state permits the county to provide assistance to parents in school for up to 48 months and up to a Bachelor's degree. Among counties that serve parents in school, the time limit ranges from 9 to 48 months, with most permitting 24 to 48 months.

Delaware: Parents are only eligible for child care assistance while in school if they are participating in a Food Stamp/TANF Employment and Training program.

District of Columbia: Full-time students do not have to be working to be eligible for child care assistance, but for part-time students, school and work activities must equal a minimum of 20 hours per week.

Georgia: Parents are eligible for assistance while in school if they are participating in a state-approved activity (i.e., a technical or vocational program leading to a specific job or career) for an average of 25 hours a week for single parents and 35 hours a week for two-parent families, or if a teen parent is pursuing a GED or high school diploma.

Illinois: Teen parents who need child care assistance to obtain their high school diploma or its equivalent do not have a work requirement. A parent receiving TANF who is attending school may or may not have a work requirement. Any work requirement is monitored by the TANF caseworker. A parent not receiving TANF who is attending a GED, ESL, ABE or vocational school program does not have a work requirement for the first 24 non-consecutive months. After that they must work 20 hours per week. A parent not receiving TANF who is attending a two- or four-year degree program is required to work an average of 10 hours per week.

Kansas: To receive child care assistance while in school, parents must receive approval and are required to work 20 hours per week unless the training will be completed within 6 months.

Louisiana: Parents are not required to work while in school, but to be eligible for child care assistance, total time spent working and/or attending school or training must be an average of 25 hours per week.

Massachusetts: Parents are not required to be working, but if they take four college courses, they would only be eligible for half-time care (20 hours); to be eligible for full-time care, they would have to be working as well. (High school students are eligible for full-time care without having to work.)

Michigan: The work requirement for parents in school to receive child care assistance (20 hours a week) may vary depending on the circumstances. Parents are usually only eligible for child care assistance while in school during the final year of their education program, unless they are pursuing a high school degree.

Minnesota: The maximum length of time a student is eligible for child care assistance is no more than the time necessary to complete the credit requirements for their Associate or Bachelor's degree as determined by the educational institution, excluding basic or remedial education programs needed to prepare for postsecondary education or employment.

Mississippi: Parents in high school are not required to be working while in school.

Missouri: Parents are eligible for child care assistance while obtaining a GED/ABE for up to one year, although the time limit may be extended with a review on an individual basis; for junior high or elementary school education as needed to complete; for high school for up to four years, with the maximum based on actual semesters required to graduate; and for postsecondary education for up to four years, with the maximum based on actual semesters required to graduate. For postsecondary education, the parent's intent must be to receive a Bachelor's or Associate degree.

(notes continued on following page)