

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
SFN 2053 (2/85) 3M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

3045

2001 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HCR 3045

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3045

House Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 19, 2001

| Tape Number                                     | Side A | Side B | Meter #      |
|---|--------|--------|--------------|
| Tape 1  | X      |        | 2550 to 4700 |
| Tape 1 (Committee Work)                         |        | X      | 0 to 1100    |
|   |        |        |              |
| Committee Clerk Signature <i>Corinne Easter</i> |        |        |              |

Minutes:

Chairman Price, Vice Chairman Devlin, Rep. Doseh, Rep. Galvin, Rep. Klein, Rep. Pollert, Rep. Porter, Rep. Tieman, Rep. Weiler, Rep. Weisz, Rep. Cleary, Rep. Metcalf, Rep. Niemeier, Rep. Sandvig

Chairman Price: Open hearing on HCR 3045.

Rep. Sandvig: Presented Resolution. (See written testimony.) I have always thought that we should be paying parents for staying home and taking care of their children instead of the state subsidizing day care, and this program appealed to me. I was going to introduce a bill, but decided to go with a study resolution instead. I have some handouts for you on the program. Please give this study resolution a DO PASS recommendation so we can look at alternatives to sending out kids to day care.

Rep. Weiler: On line 10 it says "proponents of the Minnesota law contend that paying parents to care for their children at home.....". Do you think it is a good idea for the state to pay the parent to actually do their job to stay home and take care of their children?

Rep. Sandvig: These parents would be sending their kids to day care if they weren't staying home. It is only 75% of what they would get for sending their kids to day care, and they have to be actively looking for a job, have been in school, or working at the time they became pregnant. If they weren't in this program, they would be getting state subsidization. Instead they are getting 75% of what they would get if they put their child in the day care.

Rep. Porter: In the statement on line 6 talking about 12 hours a day, 7 days a week - for the market value it is \$36,000 annually. If the average North Dakota wage earner is right around \$22,000 a year for 40 hours a week of a full-time job, where did you come up with the figures and people working 7 days a week rather than the normal five.

Rep. Sandvig: The Legislative Council got that figure. I'm assuming it is based on the amount of time and care that it actually takes to take care of a child. There is a lot of work at being a parent.

Rep. Porter: So based on what you are stating in this, we would actually be paying people more to stay at home than they would be able to earn in the work place if our average wage is \$22,000. This is saying we would be paying them 75% of \$36,000?

Rep. Sandvig: No, it is not. That is not the figure it would be based on. They would be getting 75% of what they would be getting for sending a child to day care - what they would be subsidized by the state for sending their child to day care. It is mostly for the working poor families.

Chairman Price: So if the state reimburses, for example, at a \$1.25 an hour for the first child then the state would reimburse the stay at home parent 75% of the \$1.25 for an average day.

Rep. Sandvig: That is what I understand.

Vice Chairman Devlin: As a follow up to Rep. Porter's question, you're basing this on 84 hours a week instead of 40. Seven days times 12?

Rep. Sandvig: That could be where they got the figure, I don't know for sure.

Rep. Klein: Is this per child?

Rep. Sandvig: It is for one child. If they have more than one child at home, they don't get paid any extra. But it allows them to stay home and take care of their other children. Some of the hand outs explain the rates and things like that.

Rep. Cleary: It should be 24 hours a day.

Rep. Weisz: I assume the \$36,000 was merely to show how valuable the services are of the stay at home parent. You may a comment that you are looking at paying for one child. In other words, if they are in state subsidized child care and they are getting paid for three kids but even under this proposal they would only get 75% of the first kid. The other additional children wouldn't qualify for any in home assistance, is that correct?

Rep. Sandvig: That is correct.

Rep. Klein: What is the incentive going to be to go out and look for a job if they are getting paid to stay home. Explain the dollar amount? Does that mean you are going to make them take this job, or that say "no, I need \$7.50 an hour". Can you explain that concept?

Rep. Sandvig: They have to be looking for work or have had to have been working when the child was born. They are not staying home to get paid, they are taking a break from work to be home for a little while with the child. The state is paying more out for the child to be in day care.

Chairman Price: Rep. Klein, the Minnesota Bill is in here as introduced. It is for children under the age of one, and it also says the family is limited to 12 months of assistance per child, and other things are in here.

Rep. Weiler: On line 13 and 14 it talks about the shortages of day care that we have in the state. How can we take care of that problem, maybe without doing what this is recommending? If there a law in having so many day cares in a certain area?

Rep. Sandvig: There is just a shortage of people going into day care now days. Some of the low payments they get are the reason for it.

Rep. Weiler: So it is basically the money the day care is getting in return now is the problem for the shortages?

Rep. Sandvig: One of the problems is finding day care for small infants. It costs much more for them to be taken care of.

Barb Arnaldson: I represent North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children. There is a huge shortage of day care providers. Infant care is really hard to come by if you are a parent. The reason for it is because it is the ratio - you have to have one adult for every four babies. The older they get, ages three and four, you can have one to eight ratio. We're in favor of this bill. Not only is there shortages in day care and we can't serve all the parents that need it, but primarily because we feel the need for bonding and attachment is really important for the child and parent. The reality is that is not what happens. We have working parents out there, and in North Dakota we are in the top five states that have working parents of children under the age of six. The recent data was 69% of all working parents. We can't take care of them. This is a good idea, not only for bonding and attachment, but we're looking at a specific population here and I see John Hougen is here and he could talk to you about the number of families participating

in the child care assistance program. These are parents that care givers look at as "at risk". They are in low wage jobs, there is a high turn over rate in their own work, but they also need a lot of parenting skills. Would we would see if this is actually studied is the possibility of linking parenting classes along with.

Rep. Pollert: When we had our children, my wife and I made the financial agreement that she would not work until the kids got to be two or three years old. Has the mood in the state for parents changed to where they now want to have the state subsidize these programs? Shouldn't it be the parent's responsibility. That is what we had to do and I still think that is the right way to go?

Barb Arnaldson: You are right. I am a part time worker, but we realize with our income that we don't have the boats, snowmobiles. What we're seeing is that a lot of farm families that are needing dual incomes now. Some parents don't necessarily want to chose to go to work, but many of them do. I would say that is there was a way to make it on one income, I would think they would want to. It isn't always an option for the parent. My family is lucky to have that choice, but there is a huge number of single parents out there, a huge number of very poor working families that don't have a choice.

John Hougen: Director of Public Assistance, Department of Human Services. (See written testimony.) I am taking a neutral stand. North Dakota's child care program is funded with the federal Child Care Development Fund. The state fiscal contribution to this program is the maintenance of effort requirement to draw down the federal money. Assistance through the Child Care Development Fund must go towards providing child care for families working and/or going to school. Funding for the proposed program would have to come from a source other than the Fund.

Chairman Price: What you're saying is that we would be on all state dollars unless you find something you are not aware of?

John Hougren: Minnesota is funded with state funds.

Chairman Price: Close hearing on HCR 3045.

**COMMITTEE WORK:**

**Chairman Price**: Rep. Tieman.

**Rep. Tieman**: I make a motion DO NOT pass.

**Rep. Weiler**: Second.

**Chairman Price**: Discussion:

**Rep. Niemeler**: I think this concept is a wonderful support of family values. The linker is that the child care monies can't be used to pay for this type of a program. I still would oppose a DO NOT PASS hoping there would be some other funding sources.

**Rep. Cleary**: I suppose there is a match with federal funds?

**Chairman Price**: There wouldn't be for this.

**Rep. Calvin**: I think this is a good concept. It would be better for the children at home, but on the other hand a lot of room for manipulation.

**Rep. Sandvig**: Mr. Hogan said in the year 2000 we spent over \$2,000,000 in state money on child care. That is our state share. If we spend that kind of money for kids to be taken care of out of the home, it makes sense to me that we can look at this.

**Rep. Metcalf**: This is a study resolution and we don't want to try to study at this particular time, but I can see the benefits of a child taken care of its mother at home. I've also seen where that child would have been a lot better off in a day care center.



**Chairman Price:** In U.S. Today the IQ of the mother, if she stays home with the child, plays in greatly with the success of the child.

**Rep. Welsz:** I have some real issues with paying to take care of your own kids, but in reality these kids aren't going to be at home regardless. If this will encourage parents to be home with their kids it is almost always a good thing. Being that we subsidized child care dollars anyway, we should take a look at this.

**Rep. Niemeler:** The money angle is going to be a trade off. It is a shift in the money and less expensive shift.

**Rep. Sandvig:** If they had other children, those kids would also be out of the day care.

**Rep. Pollert:** Seems to me this a paradigm shift, that the parents are going from what they think is best for the child to what can I financially do that is better for the family.

**Chairman Price:** Will the clerk call a roll on a DO NOT PASS.

**7 YEAS, 7 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

**Rep. Niemeler:** I move a DO PASS.

**Rep. Cleary:** Second.

**8 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSENT**

**CARRIED BY REP. CLEARY**

Date: 2-19-01  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3045

House Human Services Committee

☐ Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_

or

☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken DO NOT PASS (Tule)

Motion Made By Rep. Tieman Seconded  
Rep. Porter By Rep. Weiler

| Representatives              | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|------------------------------|-----|----|-----------------|-----|----|
| Clara Sue Price - Chairman   |     | ✓  | Audrey Cleary   |     | ✓  |
| William Devlin - V. Chairman | ✓   |    | Ralph Metcalf   |     | ✓  |
| Mark Dosch                   | ✓   |    | Carol Niemeier  |     | ✓  |
| Pat Galvin                   |     | ✓  | Sally Sandvig   |     | ✓  |
| Frank Klein                  | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Chet Pollert                 | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Todd Porter                  | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Wayne Tieman                 | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Dave Weiler                  | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
| Robin Weisz                  |     | ✓  |                 |     |    |
|                              |     |    |                 |     |    |
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Total (Yes) 7 No 7

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: 2-19-01  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3045

House Human Services Committee

☐ Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_

or

☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Rep. Niemeier Seconded By Rep. Cleary

| Representatives              | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|------------------------------|-----|----|-----------------|-----|----|
| Clara Sue Price - Chairman   | ✓   |    | Audrey Cleary   | ✓   |    |
| William Devlin - V. Chairman | ✓   |    | Ralph Metcalf   | ✓   |    |
| Mark Dosch                   |     | ✓  | Carol Niemeier  | ✓   |    |
| Pat Galvin                   | ✓   |    | Sally Sandvig   | ✓   |    |
| Frank Klein                  |     | ✓  |                 |     |    |
| Chet Pollert                 |     | ✓  |                 |     |    |
| Todd Porter                  |     | ✓  |                 |     |    |
| Wayne Tieman                 |     | ✓  |                 |     |    |
| Dave Weiler                  |     | ✓  |                 |     |    |
| Robin Weisz                  | ✓   |    |                 |     |    |
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Total (Yes) 8 No 6

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment Rep. Cleary

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
February 19, 2001 4:36 p.m.

**Module No: HR-30-3922**  
**Carrier: Cleary**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3045: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(8 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3045 was placed on the  
Tenth order on the calendar.

2001 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HCR 3045

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3045

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 14, 2001

| Tape Number  | Side A | Side B | Meter # |
|--|--------|--------|---------|
| 1  |        | X      | 29.4    |
|  |        |        |         |
| Committee Clerk Signature <i>Barb Arnold-Tengesdal</i> |        |        |         |

Minutes:

The hearing was opened on HCR 3045.

REPRESENTATIVE SALLY SANDVIG, Sponsor, introduced bill. (Written testimony)

\$2,075,104. State funds being spent on child care. SENATOR MATHERN: In the case of quality child care, would these homes have some kind of inspection. REP. SANDVIG: There is no home inspection; some parenting skills classes. SENATOR KILZER: What are the ages of the children? REP. SANDVIG: Under the age of 1 year. There are no Federal funds. Other testimony was presented from providers.

BARB ARNOLD-TENGESDAL, ND Assoc., Education of Young Children, supports the resolution (Written testimony)

EARLEEN FRIEZ, Licensed Family Child Care, supports resolution. (Written testimony)

Neutral position.

Page 2  
Senate Human Services Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3045  
Hearing Date March 14, 2001

JOHN HOUGAN, Dept of Human Services, offered information (Written testimony) Funds would have to come from some place other than child care. SENATOR MATHERN: Any talk of Federal funding program like this? MR. HOUGAN: Not aware of any. Minnesota has a variety of programs.

No other testimony. The hearing was closed on HCR 3045.

Discussion ensued. SENATOR MATHERN moved a DO PASS on HCR 3045. SENATOR FISCHER seconded the motion. Roll call vote carried 5-1-0. SENATOR KILZER will carry the bill.

Roll Call Vote #: /

Date: 3/14/01

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3045Senate HUMAN SERVICES

Committee

☐ Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_

or

☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Re PassMotion Made By Sen Mathern Seconded By Sen Fischer

| Senators                         | Yes | No | Senators         | Yes | No |
|----------------------------------|-----|----|------------------|-----|----|
| Senator Lee, Chairperson         |     | ✓  | Senator Polovitz | ✓   |    |
| Senator Kilzer, Vice-Chairperson | ✓   |    | Senator Mathern  | ✓   |    |
| Senator Erbele                   | ✓   |    |                  |     |    |
| Senator Fischer                  | ✓   |    |                  |     |    |
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Total (Yes) 5 No 1Absent 0Floor Assignment Senator Kilzer

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



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
March 16, 2001 2:53 p.m.

**Module No: SR-46-5938**  
**Carrier: Kilzer**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3045: Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3045 was placed on the  
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2001 TESTIMONY

HCR 3045

**Testimony  
House Concurrent Resolution 3045  
Representative Sally Sandvig  
Before House Human Services Committee**

**Chairwoman Price & members of the Human Services Committee:**

**For the record I'm Representative Sally Sandvig from District 21 in Fargo and I'm here to introduce House Concurrent Resolution 3045 to you which would direct the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing an at-home infant child care program.**

**I became aware of the at-home infant child care program at the Midwestern Council of State Governments annual meeting in Minneapolis last August where Minnesota Representative Richard Mulder had a booth in the innovations section and Minnesota won an award for this program.**

**I have always thought that we should be paying parents for staying home and taking care of their children instead of the state subsidizing day care, and this program appealed to me. I was going to introduce a bill, but decided to go with a study resolution instead.**

**I have some handouts for you on the program. I particularly enjoyed reading the comments of the parents who participated in the program.**

**Please give this study resolution a do pass recommendation so we can possibly look at an alternative to sending our kids to day care.**

**Thank you.**

# BABIES!

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF  
*Children  
Families  
Learning*

1500 Highway 36 West  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113-4266

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This brochure can be made available  
in alternate format upon request.

Minnesota At-Risk Infant Child Care Program

HEALTHY KIDS START WITH...



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## What is the At-Home Infant Child Care Program?

**The At-Home Infant Child Care Program (AHIC)** helps families with children under one year of age cover some of the costs of staying home and caring for their infant. AHIC provides child care assistance funding to families who qualify to stay home for the first year of the baby's life.

## How will this help my baby?

**A baby's first year** is an important time of learning and growth. Babies learn best from familiar people and things. Spending time with your baby during these early months is one way to help your baby learn and grow.

# BABIES!

## Does my family qualify for AHIC?

To qualify for AHIC, a family must:

- Be working, going to school, or looking for work before the child is born,
- Meet income guidelines and care for their infant full-time in their home,
- Not currently receive Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) cash assistance,
- Not currently receive child care assistance.

**Check with** your county child care office to find out if you qualify for AHIC.

## What else do I need to know?

AHIC is part of the Basic Sticking (BSF) that helps parents pay for child care while they are working, looking for work or going to school. In some counties, there may be a waiting list for BSF. Even if there is a waiting list, you still might be able to get help from AHIC.

If you qualify, you can participate in AHIC for a total of twelve months. The time can be spent with one baby or divided up between more than one infant.

To qualify for AHIC, the parent staying home must be at least 18 years of age or older.

*Infant child care harder to get 1/10/98 babies  
parents need to be with kids*

**AT-HOME INFANT CHILD CARE PROGRAM  
(Minnesota Rules Chapter 3400.0235)**

**Subpart 1. Purpose and applicability.** This part governs the administration of the at-home infant child care program. Beginning July 1, 1998, a family in which a parent provides care for the family's infant child may receive a subsidy in lieu of child care assistance if the family is eligible for, or is receiving assistance under, the basic sliding fee program governed by parts 3400.0010 to 3400.0230.

**Subp. 2. Administration of at-home infant child care program.** The commissioner shall establish a funding pool of up to seven percent of the annual appropriation for the basic sliding fee program to provide assistance under the at-home infant child care program. Within the limits of available funding, the commissioner shall make payments to counties for expenditures under the at-home infant child care program. Participation in the statewide pool shall be determined based on the order in which requests are received from counties. Following the birth of an infant, counties shall submit family requests for participation in the at-home infant child care program on forms provided by the commissioner. The commissioner shall respond within seven days to county inquiries about the availability of funds. The commissioner shall monitor the use of the pool and if the available funding is obligated, the commissioner shall create a waiting list of at-home infant child care referrals from the counties. As funds become available to the pool, the commissioner shall notify counties in which eligible families on the waiting list reside.

At the end of the state fiscal year, any unspent funds must be used for child care assistance under the basic sliding fee program.

**Subp. 3. General eligibility requirements.** Items A to E govern eligibility for the program.

A. Eligible families must meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.061, subdivision 2. For purposes of this subpart, "other cash assistance" under Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.061, subdivision 2, means other public cash assistance and includes the work first program under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256K. "Other child care assistance" under Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.061, subdivision 2, means MFIP child care assistance, transition year child care assistance, subsidized adoption payments designated to cover child care costs associated with participating in job search, employment, or education, and the postsecondary child care grant program administered by the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office under Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.125.

B. A family is eligible to receive assistance under the at-home infant child care program if one parent provides full-time care for the infant. The eligible parent must meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.061, subdivision 3. The requirements of caring for the infant full-time may be met by one or both parents. Eligible parents include parents, stepparents, guardians and their spouses. Nonfamily members may provide regular care for the child but are limited to a maximum of ten hours of care per week.

C. A family may apply for the at-home infant child care program before the child is born or anytime during the infant's first year. Following the birth of a child, a family is eligible to receive a subsidy under the at-home infant child care program when application to the program is made and when funding is available. A family shall only receive subsidy payments through the infant's twelfth month. "Infant" means a child from birth through 12 months of age and includes adopted infants.

D. A family is limited to a lifetime total of 12 months of at-home infant child care assistance. At the time of application to the program, the parent or parents must declare whether they have previously participated in the at-home infant child care program or used any portion of the MFIP one-year infant exemption under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256J. If the parent or parents declare that they have participated in the at-home infant child care program or used the MFIP one-year infant exemption, the commissioner shall, at the request of the county, inform the county of the remaining months of eligibility for the at-home infant child care program.

E. At the time of application to the at-home infant child care program, the family must be eligible according to part 3400.0040, subpart 5, and Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.061, subdivision 2, clause (4), and be income-eligible based on these activities. When a family is placed on a waiting list for the basic sliding fee program after a preliminary determination of eligibility under part 3400.0060, subpart 6, the family will be eligible to apply for the at-home infant child care program when the family's name moves to the top of the waiting list. If a family is still on the waiting list after leaving an authorized activity due to the birth or impending birth of the infant, the family will be eligible to apply for the at-home infant child care program when the family's name moves to the top of the waiting list.

F. During the period a family receives a subsidy under the at-home infant child care program, the family is not eligible to receive basic sliding fee child care assistance for the infant or any other child in the family.

**Subp. 4. Continued eligibility under basic sliding fee program.** When families end their participation in the at-home infant child care program, they must be served under the basic sliding fee program if they request continued child care assistance and otherwise meet all eligibility factors for the basic sliding fee program.

**Subp. 5. Assistance payments.** Items A to C govern assistance payments under the at-home infant child care program.

A. The number of months of at-home infant child care participation used shall be credited to the eligible parent. If the eligible parent later forms a new family, the number of months of at-home infant child care subsidy received in combination with the months of the MFIP infant exemption used under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256J, shall be subtracted from the maximum assistance available under this part.

B. The maximum subsidy must be at 75 percent of the rate established under Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.13, for full-time care of infants in licensed family day care in the

applicant's county of residence. There is no additional subsidy for infants with special needs. The maximum subsidy for full-time care shall be converted to a monthly amount. From that monthly amount, the county must subtract the family's monthly copayment required by part 3400.0100 to determine the final at-home infant child care monthly subsidy for the family.

C. Family income shall be determined or redetermined at the time a family applies for the at-home infant child care program. Family income shall be annualized from the beginning of the month in which the family would first participate in the at-home infant child care program. Family income includes:

(1) subsidy payments received as part of the at-home infant child care program. According to Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.061, subdivision 4, paragraph (b), counties shall use the copayment amount the family was paying or would have paid under the basic sliding fee program to estimate the subsidy payment;

(2) income from vacation leave;

(3) sick or temporary disability benefit payments; and

(4) other income the family may receive while participating in the at-home infant child care program, as determined under part 3400.0170 and Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.011, subdivision 16.

Excluded income is defined in part 3400.0170, subpart 6, and Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.011, subdivision 16. The calculation of the family copayment fee is described in part 3400.0100, subpart 4.

D. For purposes of counting the number of months that a family has participated in the at-home infant child care program, any portion of a month in which a family receives a subsidy under the at-home infant child care program is considered a full month of participation in the at-home infant child care program.

For purposes of calculating the at-home infant child care program copayment and subsidy in the first month, the county shall use the method described in part 3400.0100, subpart 4, item E. In addition, the county shall prorate the subsidy received in the first and last month of participation according to subitems (1) to (4).

(1) If the family participates in the at-home infant child care program during the month in which the infant is born, the subsidy must be prorated to cover the number of calendar days from the date of birth until the end of the month.

(2) If the family participates in the at-home infant child care program during the month of the infant's first birthday, the subsidy must be prorated to cover the number of calendar days from the beginning of the month to the date of the infant's first birthday.



(3) If the eligible parent leaves employment or another authorized activity in order to participate in the at-home infant child care program, the subsidy must be prorated to cover the number of calendar days from the date the eligible parent leaves the authorized activity to the end of the month.

(4) If the eligible parent returns to an authorized activity and will no longer be participating in the at-home infant child care program, the subsidy must be prorated to cover the number of calendar days from the beginning of the month to the date the parent returns to the authorized activity. If all other eligibility conditions are met, the family shall be eligible to receive basic sliding fee child care assistance beginning on the day the eligible parent returns to the authorized activity.

**Subp. 6. County responsibilities.** Items A to D govern county responsibilities for the program.

A. In addition to duties required under parts 3400.0140 and 3400.0160, counties shall perform the following functions to administer the at-home infant child care program:

- (1) establish the subsidy amount;
- (2) determine an estimated length of time the family will participate;
- (3) determine availability of and encumber ongoing basic sliding fee funding;
- (4) consult with the commissioner on the availability of funds;
- (5) forward applicant information as designated to the commissioner;
- (6) issue payments under the at-home infant child care program; and

(7) notify the commissioner when a family's participation in the at-home infant child care program ends.

B. A county may not accept a family as a participant in the at-home infant child care program without sufficient basic sliding fee program funds to pay for the family's anticipated cost of child care assistance after a family's participation in the at-home infant child care program ends.

C. During program participation, the county shall apply billing procedures established under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 119B, to issue the monthly at-home infant child care subsidy to families.

D. When a family's participation in the at-home infant child care program ends, the county shall send the family and the commissioner a notice indicating the number of months the family participated in the at-home infant child care program in that county.

**Subp. 7. Data collection.** The commissioner shall develop and implement an evaluation plan for the at-home infant child care program. Counties must participate in data collection for the evaluation and must adjust their data collection to reflect changes in the evaluation plan.

STAT AUTH: MS § 119B.02; 119B.061

HIST: 23 SR 1625; L 1999 c 205 art 5 s 21

## **AT-HOME INFANT CHILD CARE PROGRAM**

### **(Summary of Minnesota Statutes)**

The At-Home Infant Child Care program is a state-level set-aside under the Basic Sliding Fee program that helps parents pay for child care while they are working, looking for work, or going to school. At-Home Infant Child Care helps families with children under one year of age cover some of the costs of staying home and caring for their infant by providing a subsidy in lieu of child care assistance.

A family with an infant under one year of age is eligible for assistance if:

- the family income is under 75% of state median income;
- the parent staying home is 18 years or older;
- the parent will care for the infant and any other children eligible for child care assistance full-time in the home;
- the family was participating in an authorized activity (working, looking for work, going to school) before the child was born;
- the family has not previously received the life-long total of 12 months of assistance under the At-Home Infant Child Care program; and
- the family is not currently receiving MFIP cash assistance or other cash or child care assistance.

The maximum rate of assistance a family may receive is 75% of the rate established for the care of infants in licenced family child care in the family's county of residence. The assistance a family receives must be calculated to reflect the parent fee requirement under the Basic Sliding Fee program, family income level, and family size. Participating families are required to report income changes as specified in their county's plan and must treat any assistance received as unearned income.

Any family that is admitted to the At-Home Infant Child Care program will retain their position in the Basic Sliding Fee program or on any waiting list. The family will continue to advance on the waiting list as if they had not been admitted to the program. A family leaving the At-Home Infant Child Care program re-enters the Basic Sliding Fee program at the position they would have occupied or the waiting list at the position to which they would have advanced. Families that have attained eligibility to the Basic Sliding Fee program must be given assistance or advance to the top of the waiting list when they leave the At-Home Infant Child Care program. Families admitted to the At-Home Infant Child Care program that are not on a Basic Sliding Fee waiting list may apply to the Basic Sliding Fee program, and if eligible, be placed on a waiting list.

The counties administer the At-Home Infant Child Care program under the supervision of the state Department of Children, Families and Learning.

**AT-HOME INFANT CHILD CARE PROGRAM**  
**(Minnesota Statutes § 119B.061)**

**Subdivision 1. Establishment.** A family in which a parent provides care for the family's infant child may receive a subsidy in lieu of assistance if the family is eligible for, or is receiving assistance under the basic sliding fee program. An eligible family must meet the eligibility factors under section 119B.09, the income criteria under section 119B.12, and the requirements of this section. Subject to federal match and maintenance of effort requirements for the child care and development fund, the commissioner shall establish a pool of up to seven percent of the annual appropriation for the basic sliding fee program to provide assistance under the at-home infant child care program. At the end of a fiscal year, the commissioner may carry forward any unspent funds under this section to the next fiscal year within the same biennium for assistance under the basic sliding fee program.

**Subd. 2. Eligible families.** A family with an infant under the age of one year is eligible for assistance if:

- (1) the family is not receiving MFIP, other cash assistance, or other child care assistance;
- (2) the family has not previously received all of the one-year exemption from the work requirement for infant care under the MFIP program;
- (3) the family has not previously received a life-long total of 12 months of assistance under this section; and
- (4) the family is participating in the basic sliding fee program or provides verification of participation in an authorized activity at the time of application and meets the program requirements.

**Subd. 3. Eligible parent.** A family is eligible for assistance under this section if one parent cares for the family's infant child. The eligible parent must:

- (1) be over the age of 18;
- (2) care for the infant full-time in the infant's home; and
- (3) care for any other children in the family who are eligible for child care assistance under this chapter.

For the purposes of this section, "parent" means birth parent, adoptive parent, or stepparent.

**Subd. 4. Assistance.** (a) A family is limited to a lifetime total of 12 months of assistance under this section. The maximum rate of assistance is equal to 75 percent of the rate established under section 119B.13 for care of infants in licensed family child care in the applicant's county of residence. Assistance must be calculated to reflect the parent fee requirement under section 119B.12 for the family's income level and family size.

(b) A participating family must report income and other family changes as specified in the county's plan under section 119B.08, subdivision 3. The family must treat any assistance received under this section as unearned income.

(c) Persons who are admitted to the at-home infant care program retain their position in any basic sliding fee program or on any waiting list attained at the time of admittance. If they are on the waiting list, they must advance as if they had not been admitted to the program. Persons leaving the at-home infant care program re-enter the basic sliding fee program at the position they would have occupied or the waiting list at the position to which they would have advanced.

Persons who would have attained eligibility for the basic sliding fee program must be given assistance or advance to the top of the waiting list when they leave the at-home infant care program. Persons admitted to the at-home infant care program who are not on a basic sliding fee waiting list may apply to the basic sliding fee program, and if eligible, be placed on the waiting list.

(d) The time that a family receives assistance under this section must be deducted from the one-year exemption from work requirements under the MFIP program.

(e) Assistance under this section does not establish an employer-employee relationship between any member of the assisted family and the county or state.

**Subd. 5. Implementation.** (a) The commissioner shall implement the at-home infant child care program under this section through counties that administer the basic sliding fee program under section 119B.03. The commissioner must develop and distribute consumer information on the at-home infant care program to assist parents of infants or expectant parents in making informed child care decisions.

(b) The commissioner shall evaluate this program and report the impact to the legislature by January 1, 2000. The evaluation must include data on the number of families participating in the program; the number of families continuing to pursue employment or education while participating in the program; the average income of families prior to, during, and after participation in the program; family size; and single parent and two-parent status.

HIST: 1997 c 162 art 4 s 22; 1999 c 205 art 1 s 24

## *At-Home Infant Child Care (AHIC) Program*

The At-Home Infant Child Care (AHIC) Program helps families with children under one year of age cover some of the costs of staying home and caring for their infant. The program provides child care assistance funding to families who qualify to stay home for the first year of the baby's life.



Families are eligible for up to one year of state assistance if the parent of a child is the full-time care-giver for the child in the child's home. The state assistance is 75 percent of the average cost of licensed family day care for an infant in the child's county of residence, and is based on the size and income of the child's family. Through lower taxes

and lower childcare costs, this program adds between \$3,000 and \$5,000 to the participating family's income.

*To qualify for AHIC, families must:*

- ❖ Be working, going to school, or looking for work before the baby's birth.
- ❖ Meet income guidelines and care for their infant full-time in their home
- ❖ Not currently receive Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) cash assistance
- ❖ Not currently receive child care assistance



John L. Hougen  
01/22/2001 02:12 PM

To: Sally M. Sandvig/NDLC/NoDak@NoDak  
cc:  
Subject: Child Care

Rep. Sandvig

In federal fiscal year 2000, \$2,075,104 in state money was spent on child care. This represents the amount we had to spend to receive our full federal allocation.

I will give you the allowable maximum payments we make for child care. It varies by the age of the child and the type of facility.

| Provider Type<br>yrs)                             | Infant<br>(Birth to 2 yrs) | Toddler<br>(2 to 3 yrs) | Other<br>(3 to 13 |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Center/Group<br>per month                         | \$460 per month            | \$440 per month         | \$400             |
| Licensed Family                                   | \$440 per month            | \$400 per month         | \$380 per month   |
| Self-Certified Family/<br>Registered<br>per month | \$440 per month            | \$370 per month         | \$360             |
| Approved Relative<br>per month                    | \$280 per month            | \$260 per month         | \$260             |

Please call if you have further questions.

**PARENT RESPONSES TO AHIC EVALUATION****Answers to open-ended questions***Why did you choose to participate in the At-Home Infant Child Care Program?*

Of the nineteen parents who responded to this question about what initially motivated them to participate in AHIC, nine gave developmental and bonding reasons for participating.

- I thought it would be a great opportunity for my kids and I to spend a little more time together especially with a new baby.
- We felt that it was extremely important to have a parent stay home with our child for the first year, the developmental advantages of a child staying at home are undeniable.
- Because I wanted to stay home with my child.
- I chose it because I like to stay at home with my baby since she was so young. But now I am working. I also chose it because it was helpful to me.
- Because I had one month without pay during my maternity leave from work and I would also be able to stay home a couple weeks longer with my infant.
- I wanted to be home with my child.
- To benefit my child. I felt it was better for my child to be cared for by me rather than daycare.
- So I could stay home with my daughter.
- Because I feel the first two years of a child's life are the most important to have at least one parent always there. Day care is so expensive and I don't trust anyone who watches more than one baby. A baby is a 24 hours job alone.

Another five gave financial reasons.

- I knew that my child care bills would be more than I could afford at the time.
- Supplement my income while on maternity leave
- I was not being paid my full salary while on leave and I needed the help financially.
- Financial help.
- Supplemental family income because I quit work when I had my baby.

Two merely stated that they participated because it was available.

- Because it was offered to me.
- Day care assistance worker notified me of the program while waiting for BSF.

The final three gave reasons that were either a combination of the above reasons, or ambiguous.

- AHIC sounded like a program that would help absorb some of the financial burden of being a stay at home mom. Cost of daycare is very expensive. Emotionally financially. So it is wonderful to be able to stay home during the first months.
- Maternity leave.
- To make it easier on my children and myself.



*What were the benefits for you, your family and your infant in participating in the At-Home Infant Child Care Program?*

Again, when listing the actual benefits, seven families stated bonding and developmental issues.

- Spending time with child/child spending time with me.
- My kids and I were able to spend more time together and more mother and newborn bonding.
- Having as much time as possible with my baby before returning to work.
- The benefits were that I got to stay home with my son and he didn't have to be in daycare. He would be at home with me.
- Able to take complete care of my child. Able to watch his first year of development. Child was healthier. Able to care for myself better. Less stress. It was wonderful! I loved and will cherish those memories forever, wish it lasted longer.
- No daycare.
- To see her grow.
- I got to stay home with my daughter. My husband know his daughter was in good hands and didn't have to worry about strangers watching her. My family says our daughter is so relaxed. I believe because she know mommy is there for her every need.

Six listed financial benefits.

- Income for my family while on maternity leave.
- Provided financial support for child's needs.
- Getting extra money.
- It was income to help pay for baby supplies while I was home with son without child support or work benefits.
- Helped out financially with rent while on maternity leave.
- I was able to stay home longer with my children and I was not under as much stress to get my bills paid for the month.

Four listed a combination of benefits, both bonding and financial.

- Financial made it possible to have a parent stay home with our child. It gave the "stay-at-home dad" a feeling of still financially providing for our household. It has been obvious that our baby was impacted, he is secure and developmentally excels. We have three other children that did not have to attend child care centers during the time on the program.
- It has made it possible to spend more time at home with my son [rather] than more time at work. It has also helped me to continue to go to college full-time.
- The benefits were that I got to stay home with my child and take care of her and it helped us buy stuff for our baby.
- So I didn't have to work -cash - spending more time together as a family.

One parent did not answer this question.

*Was it difficult to participate in AHIC? If so why?*

Two parents listed reasons why it was difficult (or somewhat difficult) to participate:

- Besides my not liking to get help from the county or other people nothing was difficult to participate.
- It was difficult because my income was substantially lower.

The other fifteen parents did not indicate that it had been difficult.

*How could this program be improved?*

Ten parents responded to the question about how this program could be improved.

Five made do not think it needs improvement:

- I don't think this program needs any improvement.
- AHIC is a good experience for me. I have no suggestions for improvement.
- It worked fine for me.
- I thought it was great program. It helped us so I could spend more time with my children and not a friend or family member to stay with them.
- I liked the program.

One indicated that more information needs to be distributed:

- More understanding of what AHIC is.

One stated that the age limit of twelve months should be extended.

- Extend it to 18 months.
- Go for at least two years and also have it for every child (newborn) in a family, instead of only one child.

Three stated that the subsidy level should be raised:

- Although the financial assistance made it possible to stay home with our children, we definitely struggled financially during this time period. An increase in subsidy may have made it possible to stay home the full first year. When our child was 10 months old, we financially had to have both parents work.
- I feel that parents should stay home with their children for the first year. I think this program would be improved by raising income per month so more parents can stay home with their children.
- Maybe you could pay more than \$1.80 per hour. It just doesn't seem like a whole lot.



"Osterud, Dru"  
<Dru.Osterud@state.mn.us>

02/15/2001 11:04 AM

To: "ssandvig@state.nd.us" <ssandvig@state.nd.us>  
cc: "Roo, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Roo@state.mn.us>  
Subject: Minnesota At-Home Infant Care Program

Representative Sandvig:

The Minnesota At-Home Infant Care Program currently is funded through the state child care assistance program. The legislature has allocated \$1,000,000 from state funds for child care for this program. The amount a family receives is based on the parent fee schedule for child care assistance. A parent is eligible for 75% of the amount they would receive for child care assistance, based on income and family size.

I am sending you by fax a copy of the budget page describing the program and a report done for the legislature on the program, which includes the statutory authority for the program and the rules administering it.

The program is new and has not used most of the funding available for it. The original author of the program has introduced a bill this session to lengthen the time a family could participate in the program, increase the amount of money available to participants and change the way income is calculated for the program, a change which would also increase the amount of money available to the participants. The House author is Representative Richard Mulder. He can be reached at (651) 296-4336 or by e-mail at [rep.richard.mulder@house.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:rep.richard.mulder@house.leg.state.mn.us) <<mailto:rep.richard.mulder@house.leg.state.mn.us>>. His bill is H.F. 504 and can be obtained through the internet at [www.house.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us) <<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us>>.

I would be happy to answer any further questions you may have about the program. My phone number is (651) 582-8363.

Sincerely,

Dru Osterud

## BUDGET ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Budget Activity: MFIP CHILD CARE, BASIC SLIDING FEE CHILD CARE, CHILD CARE INTEGRITY  
 Program: EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS  
 Agency: CHILDREN, FAMILIES & LEARNING  
 State Citation: M.S. 119B  
 Federal Citation: P.L. 104-193, Title VI P.L. 101-508

## ACTIVITY PROFILE

Studies indicate that success in school is directly related to a child's early childhood experience. Children with multiple risk factors (low income, poor access to health care and nutrition, unstable housing, etc.) are less likely to experience success in school unless they have access to comprehensive high quality child care that meets the child's developmental needs while their parents are working.

- Child care subsidies are available to low-income families who participate in welfare reform activities. Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) child care, and families who are not connected to cash assistance programs (Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) child care).
- Child care assistance is designed to allow low-income parents to choose from the same child care providers that are available to private pay parents.
- County human service agencies administer the programs.

## Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP)

- The following families are eligible to receive MFIP or Transition Year (TY) child care assistance: 1) MFIP families who are employed or pursuing employment or participating in employment training, or social services activities authorized in an approved employment services plan, and 2) employed families who are in their first year off MFIP (transition year)

## Basic Sliding Fee (BSF)

- BSF child care helps pay the child care costs of low-income families not participating in MFIP, and helps keep families off welfare. Families with incomes below 75% of the state median income who participate in authorized activities, such as employment, job search, and job training are eligible for BSF child care.

## At Home Infant Child Care (AHICC)

- In 1997, the Minnesota legislature created the At Home Infant Child Care program (AHICC). The program took effect 07-01-98. AHICC allows BSF

eligible families with infant children to receive a portion of their regular BSF subsidy, for a period of up to 12 months, while staying at home with their infant (and any other children).

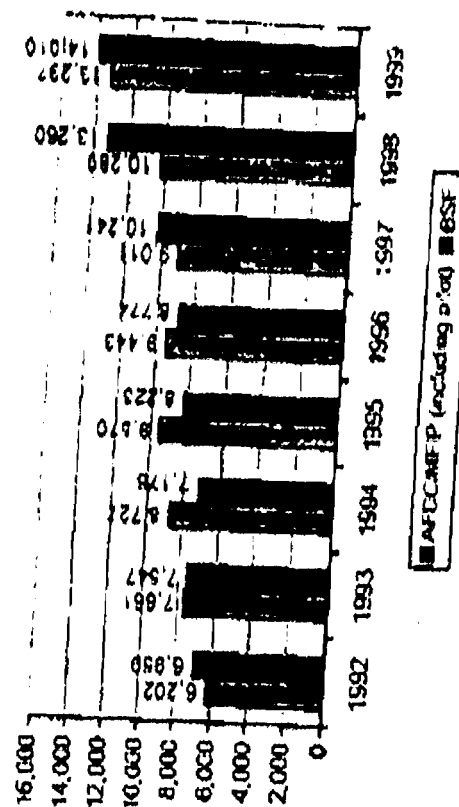
## Child Care Integrity (Fraud Prevention)

- In 1988, the Minnesota legislature expanded the Fraud Prevention Investigation (FPI) program to include the child care assistance program to assure accountability in use of limited resources.

## STRATEGIES AND PERFORMANCE

- The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps families pay child care costs on a sliding fee basis. As family income increases so does the amount paid by the family, allowing families to see an increase in take-home pay and an incentive to increase their wages. This incentive translates into decreasing public costs as family income increases.
- Of those families receiving BSF in FY 1999, 67% had done so for 24 months or less, 81% for 36 months or less.
- For MFIP and BSF, the average number of children per family was 1.88 and 1.76, respectively in FY 1999.

Number of Families Served





# Minnesota House of Representatives

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KEY: ~~stricken~~ = old language to be removed  
underscored = new language to be added

NOTE: If you cannot see any difference in the key above, you need to change the display of stricken and/or underscored language.

Authors and Status ■ List versions

H.F. No. 504, as introduced: 82nd Legislative Session (2001-2002) Posted on Feb 1, 2001

1.1 A bill for an act  
 1.2 relating to family and early childhood education;  
 1.3 modifying the at-home infant child care program;  
 1.4 amending Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 119B.061,  
 1.5 subdivisions 2 and 4.  
 1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:  
 1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 119B.061,  
 1.8 subdivision 2, is amended to read:  
 1.9 Subd. 2. [ELIGIBLE FAMILIES.] (a) A family with an infant  
 1.10 under the age of one year is eligible for assistance if:  
 1.11 (1) the family is not receiving MFIP, other cash  
 1.12 assistance, or other child care assistance;  
 1.13 (2) the family has not previously received all of the  
 1.14 one-year exemption from the work requirement for infant care  
 1.15 under the MFIP program;  
 1.16 (3) the family has not previously received a life-long  
 1.17 total of ~~42~~ 36 months of assistance under this section; and  
 1.18 (4) the family is participating in the basic sliding fee  
 1.19 program or provides verification of participation in an  
 1.20 authorized activity at the time of application and meets the  
 1.21 program requirements.  
 1.22 (b) A family is limited to 12 months of assistance per  
 1.23 child.  
 1.24 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 119B.061,  
 1.25 subdivision 4, is amended to read:  
 2.1 Subd. 4. [ASSISTANCE.] (a) A family is limited to a  
 2.2 lifetime total of ~~42~~ 36 months of assistance under ~~this~~  
 2.3 ~~section subdivision 2~~. The maximum rate of assistance is equal  
 2.4 to ~~75~~ 90 percent of the rate established under section 119B.13  
 2.5 for care of infants in licensed family child care in the  
 2.6 applicant's county of residence. Assistance must be calculated  
 2.7 to reflect the parent fee requirement under section 119B.12 for  
 2.8 the family's actual income level and family size while the  
 2.9 family is participating in the at-home infant child care program  
 2.10 under this section.  
 2.11 (b) A participating family must report income and other  
 2.12 family changes as specified in the county's plan under section  
 2.13 119B.08, subdivision 3. The family must treat any assistance  
 2.14 received under this section as unearned income.  
 2.15 (c) Persons who are admitted to the at-home infant care  
 2.16 program retain their position in any basic sliding fee program

2.17 or on any waiting list attained at the time of admittance. If  
2.18 they are on the waiting list, they must advance as if they had  
2.19 not been admitted to the program. Persons leaving the at-home  
2.20 infant care program re-enter the basic sliding fee program at  
2.21 the position they would have occupied or the waiting list at the  
2.22 position to which they would have advanced. Persons who would  
2.23 have attained eligibility for the basic sliding fee program must  
2.24 be given assistance or advance to the top of the waiting list  
2.25 when they leave the at-home infant care program. Persons  
2.26 admitted to the at-home infant care program who are not on a  
2.27 basic sliding fee waiting list may apply to the basic sliding  
2.28 fee program, and if eligible, be placed on the waiting list.  
2.29 (d) The time that a family receives assistance under this  
2.30 section must be deducted from the one-year exemption from work  
2.31 requirements under the MFIP program.  
2.32 (e) Assistance under this section does not establish an  
2.33 employer-employee relationship between any member of the  
2.34 assisted family and the county or state.  
2.35 Sec. 3. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]  
2.36 Sections 1 and 2 are effective July 1, 2001.



"Gary or Earleen  
Friez"  
<bigwhite@pop.ctel.  
com>

02/19/2001 09:43 AM

To: "Tim Mathern" <tmathern@state.nd.us>  
cc: "Sally Sandvig" <ssandvig@state.nd.us>, "Bette Grande"  
<bgrande@state.nd.us>, "Scot Kolsh" <skolsh@state.nd.us>, "Aaron  
Krauter" <akrauter@state.nd.us>, "David O'Connell"  
<dconnell@state.nd.us>  
Subject: Testimony in favor of SCR3046

Sen. Mathern,

I am a Licensed Family Child Care Provider from Hettinger. I have been doing child care in my home for 26 years, and children in my care generally always includes three children under the age of 2.

I support SCR 3046 concerning study of feasibility and desirability of establishing an at-home infant child care program.

Since most low-income families access minimum wage jobs which generally include shift work, and weekends, it is hard for them to find a provider who is open all the hours that care is required. Therefore children are bounced from one care arrangement to another, which is difficult for all concerned. Children do best when there is consistency in caregivers which doesn't happen with shift work, since very few care givers offer 24 hour 7 day a week care. Consistency in care is important for all children, but is especially crucial for infants when basic bonding needs to occur. Without proper bonding, children have difficulty with their emotional development.

As the bill indicates, there is a shortage of infant care throughout North Dakota.

Earleen Friez, (701)567-2822

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REGARDING CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3045  
FEBRUARY 19, 2001

Chairman Price and members of the House Human Services Committee, for the record my name is John Hougen, Director of Public Assistance for the Department of Human Services. I am here to offer information on House Concurrent Resolution 3045.

This resolution would allow a parent to stay at home and receive a payment from the child care program to care for his or her infant child. Minnesota has a program like this in place. North Dakota's childcare program is funded with the federal Child Care Development Fund. The state fiscal contribution to this program is the maintenance of effort requirement to draw down the federal money. Assistance through the Child Care Development Fund must go towards providing childcare for families working and/or going to school. Funding for the proposed program would have to come from a source other than the Child Care Development Fund.

This concludes my formal testimony and I am available to answer any questions from the committee.



# **FRIEZ LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE**



808 N 3RD ST ♦ PO BOX 1101 ♦ HETTINGER, ND 58639-1101  
Phone (701) 667-2822 or 667-3102

## **TESTIMONY SUPPORTING HCR3045**

My name is Earleen Friez and I have been doing child care in my home for 26 years.

I support passage of HCR3045 directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing an at-home infant child care program.

Giving the parent who is eligible for child care assistance, the option of staying home with their infant and receiving compensation for doing so might sound like a foolish waste of money, however I firmly believe this is an idea worth studying.

Parents eligible for child care assistance tend to have minimum wage jobs. Minimum wage jobs tend to involve rotating shift work and weekends. Few child care facilities are open 24 per day 7 days a week, which means children of these parents, tend to have multiple care givers which is difficult for all children but especially for infants. Bonding is a very important part of an infant's development, and this doesn't adequately happen when an infant is bounced from one care setting to another.

Availability of infant care is limited in North Dakota, so not only would a plan such as the one which already exists in Minnesota, be of benefit to infants, it would also open up more infant slots. There simply are already more infants needing care than there are available infant openings. This plan would not have a negative impact upon child care facilities.

I urge this committee, to vote for a do pass recommendation for this resolution. If HCR3045 and 3068 both receive final approval, it would be logical to fold them into the same study.

Thank you.



# *North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children*

PO Box 5797 • Fargo, ND 58105-5797

March 14, 2001

To: Judy Lee, Chairperson, Senate Human Services Committee

From: Barb Arnold-Tengesdal  
North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children

Re: Testimony in support of HCR 3045

The North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children (NDAEYC) has a paid statewide membership of 356 and a local chapter affiliate membership of approximately 200 additional people. The local chapters are in Grand Forks, Fargo, Jamestown, Bismarck, and Minot. Members represent a variety of jobs in the early childhood profession - family and group day care providers, day care center staff and directors, preschool staff, Head Start staff, Minot and Grand Forks Air Force Base Child Development Center staff, Child Care Resource & Referral agencies, lab schools from Higher Education Institutions and many other professionals within the field.

## What we know is good for infants and toddlers

To promote the healthy development of each child should be the primary concern for all people in our nation. No child should grow up hungry, ill, homeless or without a loving family who cares. We do know what research says:

- According to Brain development research, most brain cell connections are made within the first year and that these connections (synapses) grow and change as a result of stimulation from the environment and the warm, loving responsiveness of a few caregivers.
- Relationships with other people early in life are the major source of development of the emotional and social parts of the brain.
- Research on attachment done by Alan Sroufe, Ph.D. and his colleagues at the University of Minnesota have found that children who receive warm and responsive caregiving and are securely attached to their caregivers and cope with difficult times more easily when they are older. They are more curious, get along better with other children, and perform better in school than children who are less securely attached.
- Research by Megan Gunnar, Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D., at Baylor College of Medicine have looked at stress responses in children and proven correlation's between stress and attachment.

Infants and toddlers have unique needs and must develop a strong sense of trust in the world around them. They need to know they can count on good nutrition for developing a strong body, housing and shelter that is warm and safe, medical care that inclusive of all aspects of development - mental as well as physical, and parents to be available when they cry out.

NDAEYC supports HCR 3045 because it is good for the optimal development of children. It is good for parents to have time to make those early connections with children without the stress related to finding and retaining child care or dealing with the stress of becoming a new parent. It is good for child care providers who would rather work with parents who have spent the early months with their children, picking up the cues and knowing their child well enough to share information and create smooth transitions to group care in the future months.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REGARDING CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3045  
MARCH 14, 2001**

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, for the record my name is John Hougén, Director of Public Assistance for the Department of Human Services. I am here to offer information on House Concurrent Resolution 3045.

This resolution would allow a parent to stay at home and receive a payment from the child care program to care for his or her infant child. Minnesota has a program like this in place. North Dakota's childcare program is funded with the federal Child Care Development Fund. The state fiscal contribution to this program is the maintenance of effort requirement to draw down the federal money. Assistance through the Child Care Development Fund must go towards providing childcare for families working and/or going to school. Funding for the proposed program would have to come from a source other than the Child Care Development Fund.

This concludes my formal testimony and I am available to answer any questions from the committee.

**Testimony**  
**House Concurrent Resolution 3045**  
**Representative Sally Sandvig**  
**Before Senate Human Services Committee**

**Chairwoman Lee & members of the Human Services Committee:**

**For the record I'm Representative Sally Sandvig from District 21 in Fargo and I'm here to introduce House Concurrent Resolution 3045 to you which would direct the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing an at-home infant child care program.**

**I became aware of the at-home infant child care program at the Midwestern Council of State Governments annual meeting in Minneapolis last August where Minnesota Representative Richard Mulder had a booth in the innovations section and Minnesota won an award for this program.**

**I have always thought that we should be paying parents for staying home and taking care of their children instead of the state subsidizing day care, and this program appealed to me. I was going to introduce a bill, but decided to go with a study resolution instead.**

**I have some handouts for you on the program. I particularly enjoyed reading the comments of the parents who participated in the program.**

**Please give this study resolution a do pass recommendation so we can possibly look at an alternative to sending our kids to day care.**

**Thank you.**

*\$ 2 million  
state funds on child care*