



FMWF Chamber Letter of Support for SB 2012

January 24th, 2023

Chair Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

For the record, my name is Katherine Grindberg and I have the pleasure of serving as the Executive Vice President for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo (FMWF) Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity for businesses, members, and the greater community. On behalf of our over 1,900 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2012, as it relates to childcare.

As members of this committee well know, workforce is a major challenge facing nearly every business across North Dakota. This challenge is not unique to our state though, businesses across the United States are in desperate need of qualified workers to fill their open positions. Every state in the nation is competing to attract, acclimate, retain, and develop workforce.

A critical component of this nationwide workforce crisis is the accessibility of affordable and quality childcare. These challenges are cyclical in nature and require a multi-pronged approach to strategically address the root causes of the problem. Through innovative approaches, the state of North Dakota and childcare providers can streamline processes, reduce regulatory burdens without compromising the quality of care, decrease financial barriers and advance public-private partnership models, creating a more sustainable and equitable childcare sector.

We encourage the legislature to support innovative childcare solutions, such as SB 2012. On behalf of our members, thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Katherine Grindberg

Executive Vice President
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