

**Written Testimony
In Support of
SB 2301**

Legislators:

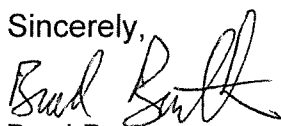
I have been the Economic Development Director in Devils Lake for 4+ years now and the issue of Childcare has been at the forefront of what we have been doing at Forward Devils Lake that entire time. The one comment from every employer, potential employer and employee is that we need more affordable, flexible childcare and please do anything you can to help support our childcare providers and their workforce needs.

Forward Devils Lake Economic Development has responded to that comment by helping fund 3 new child-care centers potentially providing 180-200 new child-care slots in Devils Lake since 2018, we also have provided an annual end of year incentive to the owner/managers of 5 public childcare centers of \$50.00 for each child taken care of that year. While this is a small amount compared to the proposed legislation in SB 2301 we know that it has helped the Childcare Center owners and managers to reward their workers. We know that recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce is their most significant challenge day-in and day-out.

Senate Bill 2301 – is needed and welcomed by Devils Lake and speaking on behalf of all rural cities in ND we know that it would make a difference in recruiting and retaining qualified workers in Devils Lake and others communities like ours.

Thank you for your consideration and support of Senate Bill 2301

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Barth".

Brad Barth

Executive Director

Forward Devils Lake Corporation

Economic Development organization for

City of Devils Lake and Ramsey County, ND