

Members of the community my name is Linda Barnick director of a child care center in Jamestown. The center is going on 34 years now. I have worked with children for 49 years in various different child programs. As time goes on it is getting harder getting and retaining good quality staff to work with these most precious children of the future. The wages and benefits are a major factor in the huge problem.

It is very hard to ask someone to work for 10.00-11.00 per hour when they can go to Walmart or McDonalds and get 20.00 per hour and benefits or why it is these child professionals should take care of the personal needs of these children (such as diapers) and the garbage men get more money an hour to haul away the garbage than the child care providers get. Not everyone can work in child care it takes special people to care for the future workforce.

We know that the work force getting people back to work is very important but in order to help these people work the number one issue for them is to get and find good quality child care and in order for that to happen we need your help financially with the child care crisis. It isn't possible to keep putting all of the finance burden on the families.

We all know that the economy has sky rocketed and that doesn't help with the situation at all. I am very much in supporting the SB-2301bill, but we are asking for far more of a financial investment by the state to truly help with this issue. We need on going financial help every year. We need to get passed the \$150 million investment annually. To get these special and very important workers out of the poverty level.

Thank you

Linda Barnick