

Chairman Wobbema & Members of Senate Workforce Development Committee

My name is Becca Koeplin, I am a childcare provider out of Elgin ND. I am sorry I can't be present to testify in person.

As a daycare provider, I am one hundred percent on board for the continuation in the stipend. This money helps us stay in business and above water financially. With the funds we received in 2020 I was able to increase the starting wages for my employees. As a home based, group licensed daycare, with the capacity of having thirty children, it can be straining to keep the doors open and provide childcare in the small community of Elgin, North Dakota. To make ends meet, we would have to raise our rates. This also puts a financial strain on our families, many of which have fixed incomes. Childcare is needed everywhere, the extension of the stipend will help us keep our doors open at a reasonable rate for the families that we provide care for. We can improve our programs and offer services with the additional help with the children's interest as a top priority. If these monthly stipends end, I, along with many other childcare providers will have to make the tough decision to raise rates on the families. Childcare is essential. Without childcare, you lose the workforce due to a parent staying home. I am in support of SB 2301.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Becca Koeplin

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