

Dear State Representative Natalie Zeleznikar,

The Child Care crisis in Minnesota is a shortage of affordable and accessible childcare that affects families, businesses and the economy. This has been a spiral effect since the pandemic. The pandemic caused many childcare facilities to shut down and many were unable to recover financially. The pandemic also caused childcare facilities to be unable to keep up with the inflation of wages. Low wages mean a lack of workers. Lack of early childhood teachers/education providers means less child slots to fill.

Childcare centers have long waitlists, high costs, lost earnings and little support.

Minnesota's childcare mandates can cause issues for childcare facilities. Hiring requirements are very difficult and seen as a huge negative impact. The requirements of what each tier needs and what we can afford to pay makes hiring next to impossible.

When hired training and education needs to be ongoing. CPR and first aid used to go towards those continuing ED hours, but now no longer qualify. Now staff have to do CPR and first aid on their own time.

At my last review, I was told a piece of furniture was not in good repair. This piece of furniture was not broken nor missing any pieces, but a piece of the brown paper from the particle board had torn off. We had visibly made sure the pieces could not rip anymore, but we were told it was on the correction order and to fix it with duct tape. We have since removed the piece of furniture because we felt duct tape would look worse to parents walking through. Repairs get very expensive and again must come from our profit which is very low to begin with.

This is to just state a few issues that impact us in childcare. We go into education because we want to make a positive impact on students/children's lives, help their community and inspire/motivate them. We want to continue to create supportive environments where children can learn. Childcare centers and home daycares need more support though and need to be heard about what impacts them. Hear our voices because we live this job every day and know the impact it is causing on us and is resulting in childcares shutting down due to the lack of support. Children will always be our future, and teachers help build their future. We as one can help each other learn the negative impacts to help make it better to create more childcare centers rather than decrease them.

Thank you for your time,

Lisa Miller

Director of Bubbling Brook Child Care Center