

"We just had a third baby and will be paying \$861/week for three kids. At that point we have to decide what's more important health insurance and a job that literally just pays for daycare...or staying home on one income and no health insurance... Our system is broken. My husband is a veteran and we can't get any help when he gave all when he served."

## Requested Anonymity Sherburne County, MN

"Our daycare bill is...almost \$1,700 per month! I know many mothers that have quit their career... This is something our family has not considered, as I carry our family's health insurance. ...I hope there can be a better plan to allow childcare to be more affordable in the very near future."

Angela D. Hibbing, MN "I couldn't believe we were paying as much as a mortgage, over \$1,248 per month. We didn't qualify for any scholarships or discounts. We decided to stop daycare. We couldn't afford to keep going, so my husband dropped to part-time work, and we asked grandparents to help as well. Middle class families like mine desperately need affordable childcare."

## Rachel K. Blaine, MN

"It is extremely disheartening to work hard at good paying jobs yet be stretched so thin financially... We currently pay \$350 per week for our one child... This cost is preventing us from being able to save for a home, grow our family, and put any money back into the local economy."

Emma H. Savage, MN "I recently had twins, and the cost of childcare for our family is now over a third of our family's income, despite both my husband and being working professionals. Neither my husband or I can afford to stop working, but we literally can't afford to work because childcare is so expensive. The lack of affordable childcare is about to push my family into poverty and I feel powerless to change anything."

## Grace G. Grand Marais, MN

"My husband and I are excited to welcome our first child this April, but we are already overwhelmed by the costs and limited availability of affordable childcare in our state. Every parent I talk to has similar concerns and feels stretched thin."

Jessie A. Roseville, MN "I have a 19-month old that we just put in daycare this past fall. We are barely affording childcare so we can work to afford our other bills. I am a registered nurse at Children's Hospital and I love my work. I would be devastated if I couldn't work due to not being able to afford childcare. \$1200 a month is not something to be taken lightly. We could be using that for our son's savings for his future . . ."

## Natalie O. St. Paul, MN

"We currently pay \$2450/ month for childcare for two of our children. This is not even for full time care - this is for half days! This leaves very little for us to be able to pay our bills on time, and in the case of an emergency we would be strapped."

Becca H. Anoka, MN