

Dear Committee Members,

I ask for your support of SF91, a bill to make permanent a childcare center staffing flexibility first created in 2023. This flexibility has been helpful to me in managing my program and has not negatively affected the safety or quality for my children or staff. To allow this provision to expire would make my already difficult job that much harder.

Licensed Childcare Centers across the state are still experiencing a shortage of qualified staff to meet the Teacher and Assistant Teacher requirements. Although we are working hard to provide training and the hours to qualify our aids as Assistant teachers, it takes at least a year of training and work experience to obtain. Making this bill permanent would continue to keep the burden of staffing, at the beginning and end of the day, manageable and consistent.

Thank you,

Cassie Stratton
Executive Director
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