

Testimony

Testimony in Support of SF2135

Megan Schmitz

Childcare Worker & Parent

3/24/2025

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Megan Schmitz , and I am an early childhood educator, parent and advocate. I am writing today in strong support of the licensing reform bill amendment SF2135, which seeks to develop and implement a standardized timeline and standards of licensor conduct, allow for more accredited coursework from an accredited post secondary that is relevant to any skill be counted towards being teacher qualified, and to have a background study liaison.

As an educator, I have seen firsthand the challenges that exist within Minnesota's childcare system. I have witnessed a passionate, hard working, and fantastic individual with great experience and some coursework come to work but could not be left alone because she was not teacher qualified. This person was more than capable of being with children alone and most importantly keeping them safe. She was confident, valuable, and reliable yet unable to be teacher qualified. This needs to change. I have also fell victim to receiving a citation due to not having a diaper bin correctly labeled or having ten less blocks than what is required.

This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring that childcare providers can meet licensing requirements in a fair, transparent, and supportive manner while maintaining high standards for child safety and development. By reforming our licensing visits and giving our providers a voice in our licensing system, Minnesota can strengthen its early childhood system and support working families.

I urge you to support SF1235 and help create a more effective, accessible, and sustainable childcare system in our state. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would love the opportunity to provide any more information, if needed.

Sincerely,

Megan Schmitz

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