

Hello,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for House Bill 5196, the **Child Care for Child Care Educators Pilot Program**.

Our program has always offered free childcare to our teachers—a benefit I am deeply passionate about, as it supports those who dedicate themselves to this vital work.

However, in recent years, providing this benefit has placed a significant financial strain on our program due to the increasing number of staff children enrolled.

Finding and retaining dedicated early childhood educators is incredibly challenging. It becomes even more difficult when we're forced to turn away highly qualified staff simply because we can't provide care for their children. Thanks to this bill, we've been able to continue offering this essential support to our teachers while maintaining consistency among our staff—something that's critical for the development and emotional well-being of the children in our care.

The early childhood education field is not known for high wages or robust benefits, especially for those of us who operate year-round. This program has been a game-changer. It allows us to redirect thousands of dollars each month toward teacher compensation rather than absorbing the full cost of providing free care.

Currently, we have five children from four staff families enrolled. The tuition assistance we've received through this program has enabled us to offer more competitive wages and continue to operate as a high-quality child care program.

Thank you for recognizing the needs of child care educators and for supporting legislation that truly makes a difference for both staff and the families we serve. We are incredibly grateful.

Warm regards,



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