March 12, 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have been a licensed in home child care professional in Minnesota for 23 years and would like to voice my concern regarding a proposal in HF 3403 pertaining to raising the number of children allowed to be cared for by 2 adults under a C3 license.

Currently a C3 license reads as follows:

14 total children, 2 adults\*, 10 total children under school age

Of the total children under school age, a combined total of no more than 4 shall be infants and toddlers. Of this total, no more than 3 shall be infants.

Also note \* a helper ("Helper" means a person at least 13 years of age and less than 18 years of age who assists the provider with the care of children) may be used in place of a second adult when there is no more than 1 infant or toddler present.

The new proposal would have 17 children in care with these same 2 adults. It scares me to think of 19 people in a home daycare where there are no limits except that only 4 can be infants. This means 4 children under the age of 1. This means at least 4 cribs, no one napping at the same time. It does not list how many would be going to school but on those non-school days, yikes! I cannot see how 2 providers could even get all these children outside every day, which is a current requirement, how you could feed 13 children all at the same time with at least 4 crying for a bottle. I see so many things that could go wrong! Space wise, wouldn't you need to re-measure a house to make certain there was enough space? Neither provider would ever catch a break.

I have held a C3 license in the past for a very short time as I had too many under 2 and it is hectic! I absolutely DO NOT support this change as I think much more verbiage and thought would need to be put in to the statute. Rather, I would love to see all counties, therefore on an equal playing field that we are not currently on, allow for variances if a child will turn 2 within a month of accepting a new infant. Some counties allow providers to have as many as 5 under the age of 2 with one provider, and other counties are an adamant NO. Honestly, trying to keep track of all the differences between the counties makes my head spin!

17 children with 2 providers is not the answer. Please do not pass this portion of HF 3403.

Sincerely,

Katy Vaala