My name is Lisa Templin. I have been doing in home child care for 27 years. My husband, Charles has been my second adult for the last 8 years. We have also been doing foster care for almost 20 years, and have even adopted two of the 50+ children who have been placed with us over the years. We live in Gaylord, MN., which is in Sibley County, a very rural area in south central Minnesota.

I have always felt as long as I was getting paid to do foster care for a younger child that would equal what I would get paid for an eight hour day of child care it would pay to use one of my child care spots for that child. Up until April of 2016 this was always the case. On April 18th we were asked to take two little girls. One was almost 2 and the other a little over 3 years of age. On May 5th I was finally told what we would be getting paid for these two children. I was told for the first 27 day (as they were placed in emergency care for 3 days before coming to our house) we would get MAPCY emergency rate of $25.16 per day per child. After that we would be getting $18.58 per day. When we were told that rate I didn’t know how long I could keep taking up two of my child care spots, as this is how both me and my husband earn our living. I am a 4 star Parent Aware Provider and also Nationally Accredited and I currently charge $2.75 per hour, so an 8 hour day would be $22.00 this is my minimum that I even make my child care families pay. At this point my husband and I talked to the social worker and explained that these two girls were taking up spots in our child care and I would be losing money. I hated to tell them to find someplace else for these girls so I asked a question I have NEVER asked before. If you moved these girls into another foster home and they would need to go to child care the county would paid that right? The social worker said yes they would. So I asked what if we would keep the girls but place them in another child care during the day while we do child care in our own home. That way I could take two child care children and get paid for those child care spots during the day. The social worker talked to her supervisor and explained the situation. She understood the reasoning behind it and then agreed to let us enroll them in another child care, so the children would not have to be moved again and some sort of normalcy could start. In October the girls were moved to another foster family that was interested in adopting them when the PTR would came down. At that time we were also informed that our county was now going to also make foster parents pay out of pocket for any child care cost after the first 30 days. I thought this is not right and now our county is going to have less people who are going to want to be foster parents.

I have heard about Bill HF 1306. This would be such a positive thing! As I have never understood why a foster care child can go to child care and the cost is paid by the county if the foster parents both work out of the home, but if I as a child care provider was to take a foster child I can’t get paid for them taking one of my child care spots, and we are regulated by the state on how many children we can have and that is how we make a living. I am behind this bill 110% as I want to continue to serve children in both child care and foster care for many years yet.