



10134 44th Court NE St. Michael, MN 55376

March 14, 2017

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Health and Human Services Finance Committee,

My name is Hollee Saville and I have been a licensed family childcare provider in St. Michael for 12 years. I am a trainer, consultant, and mentor for early childhood professionals and have a Master's in Early Childhood Education. I have been disheartened by the increased vilification, over-regulation, paperwork, liability, and burdens placed on licensed family child care providers. However, HF 1422, HF 1311, and HF 904 will alleviate some of these burdens and improve the licensing system.

HF 1422 would require DHS to notify providers, in addition to licensors, of any changes to licensing rules, statutes, policies, federal regulations, etc. Currently, many providers are issued correction orders for items that aren't in statute or rules, but based on DHS or licensor interpretations. This bill would ensure providers receive the info directly from DHS and prevent much of the confusion that is causing providers to leave our profession.

It also clarifies that training requirements must be met by our licensing anniversary (or relicensing date), not based on the date they were taken. This would prevent confusion from licensors and providers about when trainings must be taken before they expire. In our current system, providers have to track multiple training dates from year to year. This would set our licensing anniversary as the deadline for trainings to be completed, a more efficient system for both licensors and providers.

HF 1422 would require DHS to be more accountable to both the Legislature and family child care providers, plus work to improve the Family Child Care Licensing System.

I support the "Fix-It Ticket" portion of HF1311 as it allows for efficient and safe improvements in family child care homes without wasting providers' or licensors' or time...and without vilifying providers through public correction orders. It would save DHS, licensors, and providers both time and money.

The Positive Supports Rule was not meant for anyone besides select group homes in Minnesota. However, DHS pushed for it to include family child care providers AFTER the settlement and after they repeatedly told providers that child care centers and family child care providers would not be included in it. This is yet another example of DHS overreach that we have endured over the past 8+ years. Our rules and regulations already cover most of the things in the settlement, but the trainings we would be required to take focus on things we would never need, like physical restraints. Please vote for HF 904 and prevent DHS from forcing many more providers to close and families to face fewer quality options for care, especially for their children with disabilities.

These bills offer reasonable solutions to the child care crisis. Please support HF 1422, HF 1311, and HF 904. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Hollee Saville
Licensed Family Child Care Provider