February 26, 2017

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Sub Committee,

My name is Jackie Harrington and I am a licensed family child care provider for 17 years in Rochester MN. I am writing to encourage you to support the following bills:

**HF 1298** – I urge you to support this bill so providers have a fair process in this appeal process. This bill changes the negative action appeal process. Providers have a right to appeal a DHS ruling to an Administrative Judge, yet the finding is only a recommendation back to DHS at which point DHS still has the final say. It seems that if the provider’s last step in appeals is not a final determination from the Administrative Judge, it is not a fair process.

**HF 1299** – I urge you to support this bill so all providers will have access to timely and consistent information to be in compliance with rule and statute. This bill requires that county agencies and childcare providers be informed of licensing changes in a timely manner for counties to apply changes and promote compliance of new changes with childcare providers. The licensing changes must also be posted publicly online.

**HF 1300** – I urge you to support this bill which will simplify the process of tracking training hours for family child care providers. This bill defines the Child Care licensing definition of "annual" so that it begins with the effective date of the license and ends the day before the date the annual license expires; not based on when the training was taken.

**HF 1301** – I urge you to support this bill as it promotes fairness and accuracy about a childcare providers program and adherence to rule and statutes. The bill allows for removal of a posted correction order in a providers home and DHS website if the order is reversed. Additionally, if the commissioner reverses or rescinds a violation in a correction order upon reconsideration, the commissioner shall issue an amended correction order and the license holder shall post the amended order. If the correction order is rescinded or reversed in full upon reconsideration, the license holder shall remove the original posted correction order.

**HF1306** – I urge you to support this bill to support and encourage a family child care providers who are also a foster care parent. This bill will makes child care assistance subsidies available to the foster child when the foster child is cared for by a family child care provider during the hours the provider is providing child care to the foster child.

**HF 1311** –I urge you to support this bill to make a positive change to the licensing annual inspection of family child care programs. This bill is twofold. It will require county licensors to offer providers an exit interview upon completing the licensing inspection before leaving the providers home. Providers will be made aware of correction orders or potential correction orders at this time and offered technical assistance on how to come into compliance. The family child care provider can choose to opt out of the exit interview. This gives the opportunity to receive support and technical assistance from the licensor. It also reduces the potential for a provider to receive a surprise correction order weeks after a licensing visit. Secondly, this bill authorizes a “fix-it ticket” alternative to a correction order in certain circumstances. The “fix-it” ticket addresses minor issues that can be easily fixed. The violation must not endanger the health, safety, or rights of persons in the program and must be able to be corrected immediately or within 2 business days.

Thank you,

Jackie Harrington

First Five Years Family Child Care

Rochester MN