

I will be testifying on Thursday, February 25, 2021 and hope to be stating the information below:

To Whom This May Concern:

My name is Sharyl Kalal and I have been a family childcare provider for the past 17 1/2 years. The REETAIN funding is extremely important to providers. As you know, I work in a field that is not highly compensated. Providing and maintaining a high-quality program is important to the families I serve as it provides them with the safe comfort knowing that their child is being well taken care and provided quality learning experiences to learn and grow and be ready for kindergarten. Providers spend between fifty and sixty hours a week in providing direct quality care to families. In addition, we spend our own family time in the evenings and weekends to go grocery shopping, shopping for crafts and supplies, shopping for materials such as toys and equipment, researching field trips, preparing lesson plans, looking for resources to assist with families in need of services, and also attending classes to add to our own professional development. Receiving this REETAIN funding this year is truly a big incentive for me to continue my hard-dedicated work in the early childhood field; it is one way that I can feel appreciated in my role as a family childcare provider. For me, I choose to spend this money in a few ways, helping to support my education, to buy some equipment for my family childcare and lastly to continue building relationships with my families and colleagues.

Please support the bill for this funding, there needs to be an investment in REETAIN so that providers can feel appreciated, compensated for their long hours of hard work but also to support us in our commitment to providing quality care for families across Minnesota.

Teach Recipient – From – May 2015 - October 2017

I have also been a T.E.A.C.H recipient for a few years. I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Concordia University through the T.E.A.C.H program. As you know this field does not pay well and to have the financial assistance from this program is invaluable to any individual in the early childhood field. I received my Bachelor's Degree so that I could become an Early Childhood Trainer to educate providers such as myself and providers at centers that need to have the required training from the Department of Minnesota. This T.E.A.C.H program eliminated the financial stress for me so that I could increase my level of education and thus became more committed to this field.

Sincerely,

Sharyl Kalal
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4 Star Parent Aware Rating
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