March 13, 2018

To: Mary McNamara

Subject: written testimony HF3403

Madam Chair and Members of the Subcommittee on Childcare Access and Affordability:

My name is Stephanie Reuss, and I have been a licensed family child care provider in Goodhue, Rice, and Steele Counties; for just under 23 years. I worked at a Licensed Child Care Center for a little more than three years prior to becoming a licensed family child care provider. I am giving written testimony in regards to HF3403.

HF 3403 Subdivision 16: Child Care Capacity

By raising the number of children in care, with two providers and seventeen children; there is too much room for safety concerns. I previously worked in an infant room with four infants. It wouldn't be manageable to add thirteen more children. What if one of the providers would happen to call in sick and they couldn't find a sub. Would parents need to be called and told they couldn't bring their child to child care? One provider cannot properly care for seventeen young children; very unsafe.

HF3403 245A.1435: Reduction of SUIDS

I am against changing the language for the reduction of SUIDS. Infants are safest by putting them in bed with no swaddles, sleep systems, etc. The child should be free to move.

HF3403 2245A.152: Child Care License Holder Insurance

I agree with the language to change, stating that providers only need to notify parents if there is no liability insurance or a lapse in insurance coverage. Insurance notification is already in most provider's policies, redundant paperwork.

HF3403 245A.16 Subdivision 2: Investigation

Providers should receive clear and plain language from the Commissioner if there any reasons why a provider should be denied a child care application request, or receive a suspended, revoked, or make a conditional license.

Thank you for your support,

Stephanie Reuss

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