

To: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee  
Re: HF3271  
Date: February 27, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

**I am a licensed family child care provider in Minneapolis for 34 years.** I am writing in opposition to **HF 3271** supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

· **Certified Centers are not quality care.** These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H> State licensing exists for a reason: To protect and support early education and early development. It is very, very different from school age education. **NO programs should be allowed to offer care for children without licensing.**

**My experiences** -My grown daughters live in Northern MN and have experienced the child care desert, leaving them no choice but to stay home for their children's early years. Just the suggestion of a center program in the school wiped out the only three family child care programs in one small town. They all closed their businesses and some even left the community. Who stays where they are not wanted? This bill is just another nail in the coffin of diminishing home care serving cultural, low income and specialized and rural communities.

· **I see this as just another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs.** (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.

· **Short sighted care solution.** Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. **Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.**

· **Funding needs to spread out, not focus on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs. It is not their expertise. ***Don't think we don't see this as a money grab for institutions and unions. Please take a moment and think about what you are doing and don't vote for this bill.***

*Sincerely,*

*Sheryl Warner, M Ed.*

*Minneapolis, MN 55406*

**Sheryl Warner, M. Ed., IMH-E**

Infant Family Associate

*Owner, Teacher, Mentor & Trainer*

*NAFCC Accredited **Loving to Learn FCC***

*4-Star ParentAware rated*

*2013 Bammy Award Recipient*

To: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee  
Re: HF3271  
Date: February 27, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in Apple Valley for 4 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

(Suggested reasons opposing the expansion of certified centers into the schools):

- **This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs.** (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.
- **Certified Centers are not quality care.** These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H>
- **This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program.** Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.
- **Short sighted care solution.** Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.
- **Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely,  
Tina Lama



To: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee  
Re: HF3271  
Date: February 25, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I have been a licensed family child care provider in Hopkins, Minnesota for five years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

**This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs.** (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.

- **Certified Centers are not quality care.** These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H>
- **This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program.** Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.
- **Short sighted care solution.** Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.
- **Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely,

Kristen Brown

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To: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF3271

Date: February 27, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in Shoreview, MN for 30 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

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- This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs. (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.
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- Short sighted care solution. Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.
- Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools. There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely,  
Karen Foster

To: Colie Colburn  
Re: HF3271  
Date: February 27, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family childcare provider in Sherburn County for 31 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

(Suggested reasons opposing the expansion of certified centers into the schools):

- **This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs.** (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.
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- **This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program.** Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.
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- **Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely, Julie Goldenman owner and teacher of the Shepherds Inn Daycare C-3 licensed through Sherburne County

## Shepherd's Inn Daycare

Julie Goldenman  
11800 196<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Elk River, MN 55398  
612-987-9437 cell  
763-441-2726 work  
[www.shepherdsinndaycare.com](http://www.shepherdsinndaycare.com)

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 2:30 PM  
**To:** Colie Colburn  
**Subject:** To: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee Re: HF3271

I have been a licensed Family Childcare Provider in Wabasha County for many years. The swing to more school-based child care is happening at an alarming rate. For most of my family childcare years, I have taken care of children of teachers. Most of These families do not want school based childcare. They see that children in school setting is long enough already starting at age 5 for kindergarten. This is why they chose home-based childcare. Am I concerned about my place in this? Yes I am. I am worried that when families can receive free or greatly reduced childcare through the school system they will accept it, not because they think it's better but because it will free up more of their income... which may or may not be spent on what is best for the child or family. That will leave us pretty much only being able to take infant and younger toddlers. Will the ratios for how many infants/toddlers we can take change because there are not enough older kids for us to care for because they are all in the schools? If not, then family childcare will be gone very very soon. I am closing in on retirement, I can see how this goes and choose to close my business if it comes to that. There are, however, a lot of great family childcare's out there who want to stay home with their children, provide a much needed service to their community. Basically a home away from home for their children. Though the "teachers" hired by the school will be qualified, I dont think they offer the sam atmosphere as home providers do. We treat these children as an extension of our own families, not just a number in our books. My other worry is how are the smaller districts going to absorb these kids into their buildings? We already have teacher shortages in our area, our schools do not have a lot of extra room so where is the money for school additions and hiring new teachers going to come from? The federal government? And that money comes from us, the tax payers. So essentially we are paying for someone to take our livelihood away from us. I understand families need some help now and then, lets find a way to help them with finances that go directly to them without affecting family childcare providers. To be honest, I think a lot of young families are making a lot of bad choices making them think they NEED free/reduced childcare. When we had our children back in the 1980's we saved, cut back, worked extra to be able to afford our children. We stayed at two children because that is what we thought was best for what we could give to them over the years. A lot of families are now expecting others to take care of their families instead of working for it themselves. I am 100% for help for those who truly need it, medical reasons, loss of job (but only for limited time between jobs) loss of a spouse, a parent deployed etc. it seems that we have gone way beyond that and are now handing out everything for free. Well its not free for the rest of us. My fellow providers and myself just want an equal chance to make a living doing what we love doing, taking care of children. Please help us to keep doing that by standing with us and not support the school-based childcare act.

Joan Hall

*o: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee*

*Re: HF3271*

*Date: February 27, 2024*

*Dear Committee Chair and committee members:*

*I am a licensed family child care provider in Woodbury for 20 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.*

*(Suggested reasons opposing the expansion of certified centers into the schools):*

- **This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs.** (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.*
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- **This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program.** Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.*
- **Short sighted care solution.** Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.*
- **Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.*

*Sincerely, Jacqueline Telstad*

To: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF3271

Date: February 27, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in Carlton County for, cumulatively, 14 years. I have been a MN licensed teacher in the early childhood-family education field since 1992. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs. (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting. I personally chose family childcare as a route for teaching preschool that I would consider the next best educational care next to staying home with families while allowing families to work outside the home.

Certified Centers are not quality care. These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H>

This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing support for licensed programs. Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.

Short sighted care solution. Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.

Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools. There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Berglund, M.S.Ed

Joyce A. Berglund, M.S.Ed

MN Licensed Early Childhood/Family Education & K-12 Education  
Academic/Behavioral

Strategist & Autism Specialist



To: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF3271

Date: February 27, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in Hennepin County for 36 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs. (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.

Certified Centers are not quality care. These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state.

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This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program. Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.

Short sighted care solution. Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-

school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.

Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools. There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Mathewson  
Family Childcare License holder

*We don't need to fund more dollars to programs that do not meet the quality standard we already have. We don't need to fund an increase to provide childcare for pre-K programs within our schools.*

Thanks,  
Connie Kalvig  
Connie's Daycare  
FCC 1095110  
[cmkalvig@gmail.com](mailto:cmkalvig@gmail.com)  
6516335598

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**Dear Committee Chair and Members:**

**I am in opposition to HF3271. As the director of a Lutheran church preschool, we are struggling with attendance thanks to free public preschool. It is heartbreaking to me. My program is excellent inside a fantastic room/building. I have countless people tell me how wonderful our program is.**

**Unfortunately, people are choosing free over quality. I will never understand it and I pray that the state of MN stops making quality private schools suffer. My little private school is in threat of closing after this school year if I don't get enough students for next year. If that happens, I absolutely blame the state. PLEASE help us!**

**Sincerely,  
Marisa Trowbridge- Director  
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Preschool  
6541 16th Ave S  
Richfield, MN 55423**

Director, Mt. [Calvary Lutheran Preschool 612.869.9441](http://www.mtcalvary.org)

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Date: February 28, 2024

Good Morning Committee Chair and committee members:

I am writing to you in regard to daycare. I know you probably won't read this before it needs to be read, but I have been a licensed in-home daycare since "1987". I do not usually put My thoughts out there. Now I have a daycare mom who wishes for her daughter to go to a in home daycare like she was (and I mean this literally) raised in. Originally it was arranged for baby to come here even though it was a 30 minute out of the way drive. The grandma who was supposed to watch her 3 days a week has now developed health issues that prohibit that. Now she is experiencing the hardship of that possibility. They are now looking for a daycare center. Makes me and the mom sad.

Now i get a email from RCFCCA asking for my help in dissuading the upcoming "idea" of allowing schools to offer certified centers for something called wrap around care. I have often wondered why I have to jump so many hoops to just stay licensed and now you offer a program that allows 16-year-olds to work as "ME" and I have had to have my fingerprints done after working in this business for 30+++ years.

I get the changes. I don't necessarily agree with ALL of them. But I have tried to work with them. I think now will be a good time to retire from this business. Changes with in this organization makes me not want to be here anymore. SAD FACE!

Just want a response that you even read this like you may even care. SAD FACE

Sincerely,  
Cathy Estrem  
Maplewood Family Child Care Provider

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From: BRUCE/CATHERINE ESTREM <[cbestrem@comcast.net](mailto:cbestrem@comcast.net)>  
To: RCFCCA Executive Board <[rcfccaboard@gmail.com](mailto:rcfccaboard@gmail.com)>  
Date: 02/27/2024 9:16 PM CST  
Subject: daycare

I am writing to you in regard to daycare. I know you probably won't read this before it needs to be read, but I have been a licensed in-home daycare since "1987". I do not usually put My thoughts out there. Now I have a daycare mom who wishes for her daughter to go to a in home daycare like she was (and I mean this literally) raised in. Originally it was arranged for baby to come here even though it was a 30 minute out of the way drive. The grandma who was supposed to watch her 3 days a week has now developed health issues that prohibit that. Now she is experiencing the hardship of that possibility. They are now looking for a daycare center. Makes me and the mom sad. Now i get a email from RCFCCA asking for my help in dissuading the upcoming "idea" of allowing schools to offer certified centers for something called wrap around care. I have often wondered why I have to jump so many hoops to just stay licensed and now you offer a program that allows 16-year-olds to work as "ME" and I have had to have my fingerprints done after working in this business for 30+++ years.

I get the changes. I don't necessarily agree with ALL of them. But I have tried to work with them. I think now will be a good time to retire from this business. Changes with in this organization makes me not want to be here anymore. SAD FACE!

Just want a response that you even read this like you may even care. SAD FACE

sincerely  
Cathy Estrem  
please forward to whom you think would benefit from this letter - SAD FACE

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I heard a bill is due to discuss thurs am this week allowing schools to take 33months and up.  
Please do not pass this bill.

As a family childcare provider of 19yrs, this will put a hardship on licensed care so great it will force home care option out of business or drive costs to unaffordable amounts, they are already a significant portion of a families income.

Children thrive with love and home care can offer this which is most important in the early years...a center scenario can t offer this or the same stability.

I fear fir institutionalizing affects on this vulnerable group. I have already witnessed it over the years, the difference between the kids that start early with me vs the children who go to a center then to my home.

I also see the long term affects on the center care children who are now having children of their own that lack the parenting/ nurturing skills

They missed learning as children themselves. We already have large populations of these kids we don t need more.

It feels like an agenda to gain access to more funding for the schools, who don't use it to pay for quality caregivers but who blow it like the rest of the budgeted tax money they receive. I only see it hurting our country long term, not a solution in the best interest of the children.

Family childcares are forced to use every penny wisely, and with the close relationships with the limited children in care, it is used to better the individuals in care as needed, nothing gets wasted.

I have many issues with this plan, but I think you get the point.

There is a huge population of family licensed CAREGIVERS that will be lost, and so with that will the skills children greatly benefit from in the most vulnerable years.

I wish I would have had more time to write this, but I just learned of it, and my job is to CARE for children, not write policies and agendas or figure out ways to abuse systems, which this feels like. I went to public school, I absolutely know what that means to the littles - please don't force this to be the new way of life for them, which it would do.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Temple  
Ramsey MN  
Licensed Family Child Care Professional

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*Dear Committee Chair and committee members:*

*I am a licensed family child care provider in Rice County, Minnesota for 35 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.*

*The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.*

*Certified Centers are not quality care, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H>*

*Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.*

*There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.*

*Sincerely,*

*Theresa Trcka*

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Dear Committee Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am a licensed family child care provider with a BS and MA in Early Childhood Education. I have been a classroom teacher, center director, elementary school principal, and adjunct child development college

instructor. For the past 12 years I have been thrilled to provide the highest quality care and early education to young children in my Bloomington child care home. I am writing in **opposition to HF 3271** to create certified centers in schools with a PreK program, funded by the school district.

This effort will have a negative impact on independent child care centers and in-home providers just like adding tax-payer funded “free” PreK has. Minnesota lost so many wonderful child cares and independent preschools that provided high-quality care at no expense to the state due to actions by the state. Sadly, Minnesota has been fueling the child care crisis and should refocus on keeping all child care options viable and accessible to all parents.

If we really put children first, we need to value supporting diverse options for families whose needs and wants are just as diverse. HF3271 will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation which will lessen available funding for licensed programs. If certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation, they will pull dollars that were intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of grants licensed programs would be receiving.

I know that our public schools are struggling financially due to losing students but moving child care into them will not fix the problems that are leading parents to pull their children from the public schools. Instead, it will place more children, at an even more vulnerable age, in settings that already need attention. Minnesota should pride itself on the quality of care available to children and families. HF 3271 will lower the quality and limit the options available to parents, especially to those whose children are most at risk.

Funding needs to reach the current varieties of child care options rather than prioritize schools. There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing child care and the necessary staffing, facilities, maintenance, food, or other materials for schools with PreK programs.

I am more than happy to discuss this further and I invite you to find time to visit my child care home! I would love to welcome you into our child care day!

Sincerely,  
Natalie Marose  
952-994-7063

P.S. Please direct the early childhood dollars directly to parents and simply let them choose the program that best meets their needs and desires for their children. Please understand that connecting assistance to Parent Aware ratings has given low-income families fewer choices.

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*Dear Committee Chair and committee members:*

*I am a licensed family Child Care provider in Little Canada. Providing care for 38 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.*

***· This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs. The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly***

capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.

The children that I have in my Child Care are very advanced and ready for kindergarten. We are always learning. I do my best to prepare them for when the time comes for them to go off to kindergarten. I feel very Bless to be able to be a very important part of their lives.

- **Certified Centers are not quality care.** These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care with no experience. Have you seen some 16-year-olds work ethics? Or their dedication to the job or a hard worker? Some just want a paycheck and really don't show up to do their job. Is that who we what to educate our children?

There is a problem with workers calling in sick more than a Licensed family home Child Care. Ratios numbers are much higher, no one on one with the child, harder for children to learn. The children are going to get sick a lot more. So, parents will have to take days off from their job and take a chance that they may even lose their job.

- **This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program.** Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.

- **Short sighted care solution.** Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.

- **Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely, Wilma Pralutsky

Licensed family Child Care

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Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in Oakdale for 36 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district. This will push more family daycare providers out of the business. I treat my daycare children like they are my own and offer my home to them in a family setting not a school or center setting. My families start here as infants and stay with me often until Middle School.

- **This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs.** (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.

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- **Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely Debra Ostenson

---

Date: February 27, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in Dodge County for 28 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3721 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

- **This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs.** (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.
- **Certified Centers are not quality care.** These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H>
- **This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation, further reducing support for licensed programs.** Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.
- **Short sighted care solution.** Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.
- **Funding needs to spread out, not focus on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Knutson

Date: February 27, 2024

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Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in Meeker County for 2.5 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

(Suggested reasons opposing the expansion of certified centers into the schools):

- **This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs.** (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.
- **Certified Centers are not quality care.** These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H>
- **This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program.** Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.
- **Short sighted care solution.** Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.
- **Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely, Julie Schroeder

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Date: February 27, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in Mounds View for 31 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3721 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

This bill is taking away preschool age care from Licensed Family Child Care providers in Minnesota. License Family Child Care Providers offer high-quality care for the children we serve and by putting these children in license-exempt settings does not give these children the quality care that these



*families deserve. These license-exempt centers do not offer care with "safety" in mind because their staff are not all trained properly within their first 90 days of working in the facility. These facilities can hire 16 year olds to care for 4 infants at a time. These facilities will not be open during holidays or when the children are not attending school (Spring breaks, Holiday Breaks, Summer Vacation).*

*Let's let our working families choose the quality care with Family Child Care programs to care for their children. These are quality settings that Minnesota's working families have grown to accept and Minnesota has strived to achieve. We don't need to fund more dollars to programs that do not meet the quality standard we already have. We don't need to fund an increase to provide childcare for pre-K programs within our schools.*

*Thank you for your time.*

Sincerely,

Theresa Mitchell  
Theresa Mitchell Day Care  
[rtkamitch@gmail.com](mailto:rtkamitch@gmail.com)  
763/786-4678

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February 27, 2024

Dear Committee Chair members:

I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

This expansion will pull even more children from licensed childcare programs, like mine, which are highly capable of high quality care for children.

These certified centers are not quality care. These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16 year olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does NOT meet any quality standard put forth by the state.

This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing support for licensed programs. This will put many family child care providers out of business.

Communities will only have care while school is in session. Childcare will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.

There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-K programs.

Sincerely,

Kathy Tebben  
Licensed Family Childcare Provider (for 28 years) Sent from my iPad

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Date: February 27, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in Edina for 26 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

These are some of my reasons:

·**Certified Centers are not quality care.** These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H>

·**This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs.** (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.

·**This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program.** Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.

·**Short sighted care solution.** Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.

·**Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely,

Videhi Larson

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Date: February 27,2024

Dear Committee Chair and Committee members:

I'm a licensed family child care provider in New Brighton. I haven't been doing this job for long: only five years. However, I've seen many things happen during the five years: the change of license capacity from 13 under 5 years old to 10, the closing of many,many family childcare facilities due to covid and inflation, the tightening of more regulations,training, and now, the school district will be offering care for pre-school kids now.

It seems like the job has been significantly more difficult than my peers from 20 years ago. I talked to people who've been doing this job for over 10,20,30 years. but with the changes like this for the past 5 years, I would be lying if I say I feel secure enough to hold on to this job I love for the next 5 years.

Here's why:

We are a lot more affordable than daycare centers for working class that don't rely on Child Care Assistance. Which means we are not making much money. For a licensing capacity of 10, the enrollment is usually under 10 ( part-time, gaps between kids leaving and new kids coming). with a standard average of charge in the metro area: about 180/kid/full time. The monthly income is roughly 6500 ( if you don't have any kids of your own). after deduction of food, diaper, toy, art supplies,utility...you name it, the income will lower to 5000/month with 9 kids, 10 hours a day, 50 hours a week.

Most people need help with 9 kids to stay on top of everything. Child care is both mental and labor intensive including constantly watch out for safety, teach, play, diaper change, care and comfort, cooking, cleanin, paperwork....there's a lot of paperwork!!! that's 5000 between 2 adults, before tax, without any benefits, retirement, or even time off for medical visits or family days,

Here's the reason why I'm still in business:

1. I have a child of my own that grew up in the daycare. The kids that come here are his friends he loves to see everyday. I'm the same too: those are kids that I saw growing up, and grow to love (you wouldn't believe how fast you can fall in love with a baby).
2. I want to be home for my child's non school days, the summer, the before and after school.
3. The pay isn't great but I save for work clothes, gas, and time for travel.
4. the love for kids and just want to grow with them, I love the thing they say and they do, I can do that all day.

Family childcare is not just business, it's having a stable person that the kids relate to, having people that knows everything about the kids, having a family outside their own to grow up in. A place that they love and feel safe.

I know Minnesota has a tradition of family daycare and a generation of adults that grow up in family daycare. Many of them really cherish the experience and put their own child in family childcare to recreate the experience they benefit from. Especially how diverse the experiences can be by going to daycare provided by minority groups and people with different educational and culture backgrounds.

I believe a lot of people that do child care feel the same as me: they usually want to be home for their own kids and just love to be with kids. They love so they do. Life is not just money, and business is not just business, it's community, it's a place where we interact and get nurtured.

The environment for family child care business is already fragile as it is. Unless the plan is to get rid of all family child care business for good, please do something to help.

Thanks for your time, and my apology for grammar mistakes.

Best,

Wanyue L'brand

Bright Panda Bilingual Daycare

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Date: February \_\_27\_\_, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in \_Dilworth, MN (Clay County)\_\_\_ for \_14\_\_ years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

(Suggested reasons opposing the expansion of certified centers into the schools):

- **This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs.** (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.
- **Certified Centers are not quality care.** These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state.  
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H>
- **This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program.** Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.
- **Short sighted care solution.** Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.
- **Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely, \_\_\_Sheryl Hauf\_\_\_

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Date: February 27, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

(Suggested reasons opposing the expansion of certified centers into the schools):

- **This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs.** (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.
- **Certified Centers are not quality care.** These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H>
- **This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program.** Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.
- **Short sighted care solution.** Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.
- **Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely,

Rebekah zahrbock-haag

*o: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee  
Re: HF3271  
Date: February 27, 2024*

*Dear Committee Chair and committee members:  
I have been a licensed family child care provider in Waterville, MN for 27 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.*

*This is NOT a long-term solution for the shortage of childcare in MN. This bill will take clients, Preschoolers away from my program. The Value of a Family Childcare Program is to keep the kids in QUALITY facilities . SCHOOLS are NOT quality.  
This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation reducing the support to Family Childcare. The funding needs to spread out , not just focus on schools.*

*Institulizing our children is not the answer.*

*Sincerely  
Brenda Novack  
Little Wonders Childcare  
Lead & Care President*

*T*

To: Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF3271

Date: February \_\_\_\_, 2024

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in Maple Grove, Minnesota for 28 years. I have a B.S. degree in Early Childhood Education and a valid Pre-K teaching license. I have been providing quality Preschool education and a program in my home to children for nearly 28 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

- **This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs. We are already struggling to keep families and find them.** The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.
- **Certified Centers are not quality care.** These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H>
- **This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program.** Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.
- **Short sighted care solution.** Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.
- **Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools.** There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

Sincerely, Barbara

Dear Committee Chair and committee members:

I am a licensed family child care provider in Le Sueur county for 3 years. I am writing in opposition to HF 3271 supporting schools to create certified centers in schools with a pre-k program, funded by the school district.

Reasons opposing the expansion of certified centers into the schools:

- This is another way to funnel preschool children OUT of our Family Childcare programs. (likely will do the same for centers). The expansion of school-based pre-K has pulled pre-k from licensed childcare programs which are highly capable of high-quality care for children. This expansion will draw away even more from the limited wrap around care that will be offered outside of the school setting.

- Certified Centers are not quality care. These programs cannot participate in Parent Aware, training is limited, 16-year-olds can provide care and ratios are high. This does not meet any quality standard put forth by the state. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245H>  
(If they are going to allow them to not have all the standard trainings, allow people under 18 to watch kids & not follow all the same requirements as a in home childcare, then childcare laws should change as well. Then I should be able to let my 16 year old sub for me as needed and I shouldn't have to jump through hoops to make sure my license stays active.)

- This will draw funding from the Great Start Compensation further reducing supports for licensed program. Certified centers are allowed to participate in the Great Start Compensation and are pulling dollars intended to support quality care thereby reducing the amount of the grants licensed programs are receiving.

- Short sighted care solution. Communities will only have care while school is in session. Child Care will still be needed for non-school days, holidays, and summers. There will not be non-school care available as other programs will not be able to stay in business and the few that do will be full and not have part time care available. Communities need to be encouraged to expand support for FCCs.

- Funding needs to spread out, not focused on schools. There is already money provided for schools, this does not need to be increased for the purpose of providing childcare for pre-k programs.

As someone who worked at a "wrap" program at the school and now had her own childcare out of the home, I can tell you that the learning environment at a in home daycare is smaller and children are able to more with one on one. The group sizes at the school programs end up being more then a person can handle. Schools are having a hard enough time finding workers the way it is.

Sincerely,

Amy Sellner