

# *Wilkin County Family Service Agency*

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**DAVID L. SAYLER, Human Services Director**

**BECKY A. TRIPP, Social Services Supervisor** ▪ **CINDY A. NOETZELMAN, Financial Assistance Supervisor**

March 1, 2021

Representative Dave Pinto, Chair  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee  
503 State Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: H.F. 1467  
Reprioritizing Basic Sliding Fee (BSF)  
Child Care Assistance Program

Dear Chair Pinto and Honorable Members of the House Early Childhood Committee:

As the Human Services Director of the Wilkin County Family Service Agency in Breckenridge, MN, I would like to express our Agency's support for H.F. 1467.

Wilkin County has a population of 6,324 being the tenth smallest county in Minnesota. As a border county (with North Dakota), we experience the challenges of an agricultural-based economy located in the rich Red River Valley of the North.

I would like to provide the House Early Childhood Committee a rural perspective of the BSF Child Care Assistance Program and why H.F. 1467 which reprioritizes BSF Child Care Assistance, is so important to families whether you live in Wilkin County or Ramsey County. Last year, Wilkin County had six families on the Basic Sliding Fee waiting list. When we moved one family off the waiting list, it was a family already receiving Child Care Assistance through the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Transition Year Extended priority. The next family that was eligible to move off the waiting list was also a MFIP Transition Year Extended family who were also receiving MFIP Child Care Assistance, but not BSF Child Care Assistance. Prioritizing these families is detrimental to the five families who have been on the waiting list for six months or longer. Changing the MFIP Transition Year Extended Families to Priority 5, will allow our other families an opportunity to move off the waiting list more expeditiously.

**“Gateway to the Red River Valley”**

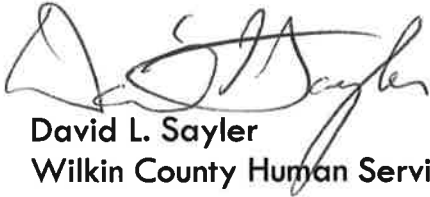
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We all have been affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, but families that receive BSF Child Care Assistance have been in particular. In order to promote equity and fairness in the BSF Child Care Assistance Program, please reprioritize the families that we serve.

I have attached an article on Jerome Powell, Federal Reserve Chair, titled "Powell says better child care might lift women in workforce", by Jeanna Smialek in the February 24, 2021 edition of the Seattle Times/New York Times. The only thing I would add after my 35 years in Human Services is that better child care policies "would dramatically" lift women in the workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Saylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

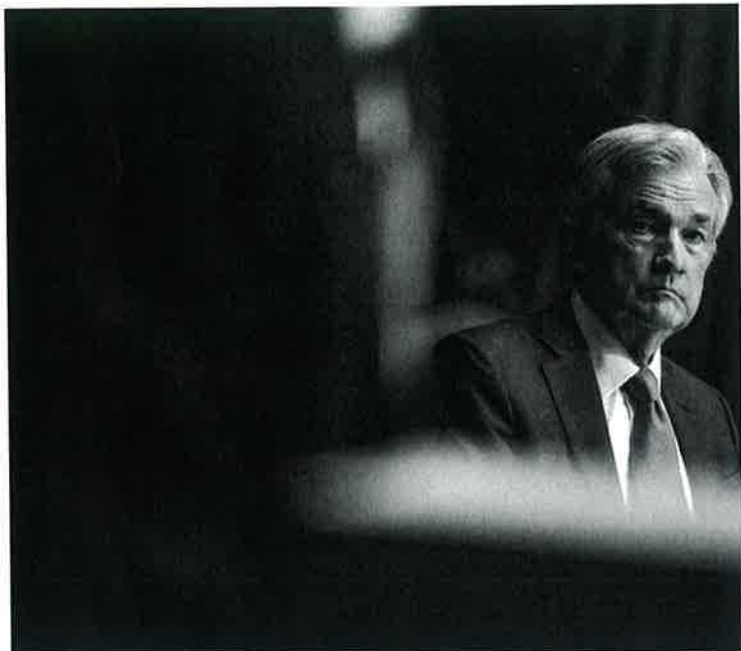
David L. Saylor  
Wilkin County Human Services Director

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## Powell says better child care policies might lift women in workforce

Feb. 24, 2021 at 7:05 pm | Updated Feb. 24, 2021 at 7:49 pm



1 of 2 | Jerome Powell, the Federal Reserve Chair, during a Senate Banking Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Dec. 1, 2020. Powell said... (Al Drago/The New York Times) [More](#) ✓

By Jeanna Smialek

*The New York Times*

Jerome Powell, the Federal Reserve chair, suggested on Wednesday that improved child care support policies from the government might help pull more women into the labor market.

The Fed chief studiously avoided commenting on specific government policy proposals during three hours of wide-ranging testimony before the House Financial Services Committee. But he did acknowledge, in response to a question, that enabling better options for affordable child-care is an “area worth looking at” for Congress.

“Our peers, our competitors, advanced economy democracies, have a more built-up function for child care, and they wind up having substantially higher labor force participation for women,” Powell said, answering a question from Rep. Cindy Axne, D-Iowa. “We used to lead the world in female labor force participation, a quarter-century ago, and we no longer do. It may just be that those policies have put us behind.”

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— Jerome Powell

The Fed chair, who had also testified before the Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday, repeatedly refused to weigh in on the \$1.9 trillion spending package the Biden administration has proposed or any of its individual provisions. The central bank is independent of politics, and it tries to avoid getting involved in partisan debates.

But Powell did voice qualified support for a few broader ideas — like exploring better child-care options — and he stressed that in the near-term, it is critical to help workers who have been displaced from their jobs during the pandemic. He made it clear that the labor market remained far from healed, that the pandemic's economic fallout has disproportionately hurt women and minorities, and that both Congress and the central bank have a role to play in supporting vulnerable families until the economy has recovered more fully.

“Some parts of the economy have a long way to go,” he said Wednesday.

Women's labor force participation had climbed for decades in the United States before stalling out — and then actually dropping slightly — starting in the 1990s. As Powell alluded to, adult women in the United States hold jobs or look for them at lower rates than women in some other major advanced economies, such as Canada or Germany.

*This story was originally published at nytimes.com. Read it here.*

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