

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kelly Dincau and I am a family child care provider from Monticello. I support HF 3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minor children living in family child care homes.

* The current background studies are incredibly thorough. Our children can be disqualified without ever having been convicted or even charged with a crime. There are teachers working in Minnesota classrooms that could not pass the background studies our children go through.

* This law was passed behind closed doors and without an opportunity for public feedback or testimony.

* The current background studies already exceed federal requirements. The Child Care Development Block Grant did not require minors to undergo invasive fingerprint and photograph background studies.

* Failure to repeal this will result in far fewer licensed child care spots, forcing more and more children into unlicensed care where there is no oversight, no required safety training or background studies. More children are at risk due to this law.

I support this bill and ask that you support this bill as well.

Kelly Dincau

My name is Sara Nordquist and I have been a child care provider in Waseca County for over 17 years. I am asking you to support HF 3573, repealing the fingerprinting requirement for our minor children who live in our licensed child care homes.

I started my childcare business just before my youngest son, Tylor (now 16), was born. I've always stated in my handbook that I am here for my own children as well as caring for other's children. This has not changed since two of my children have grown and moved out and Tylor is now a sophomore in high school. I will not subject my son, a child with no criminal history and does not deserve the humiliation of being fingerprinted and photographed without just cause.

There have been many unnecessary and overstepping laws passed in recent years that I have dealt with because I love my career and the over 100 Minnesota children I have cared for over the years, but this fingerprinting law will be a deal breaker for me. I will close my doors and move on. That will not only impact my family but also the current 8 families I care for. The shortage of providers is still rising and the current law is sure to shove more of us out of the door of a profession we cherish.

Fingerprinting innocent children does not ensure the safety of children in our care. The traditional background studies are sufficient. I would like to see evidence or statistics that will prove fingerprinting the children of the 9,000 remaining providers would disqualify them any better than the current system of having background checks done.

With regards,

Sara Nordquist
sarabchildcare@gmail.com
Waseca County

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle Walters and I am a Family Childcare Provider from Goodhue County. I support HF 3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minor children living in family child care homes. I support this bill because I feel the current background checks on our families are more than adequate enough and ask that you support this bill as well.

The long term effect from fingerprinting is the loss of even more important and dedicated family child care provider. Which would put a greater strain on working families and the overall stability and health of our current communities. More children are at risk if their licensed provider closes and families turn to unlicensed and un-inspected care. There is no training, no standards for them to follow, therefore you are putting more children in harms way.

Michelle Walters

507-923-6136

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Theresa Peplinski. I have been a licensed family child care provider in Rochester since 2001. I'm offering my written testimony supporting HF 3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minors who live in a licensed child care home.

Our children are not employees although they were classified as such behind closed doors without the opportunity for public input. They are children. Fingerprinting of minors is NOT a requirement of the Federal Block Grant although you may have been lead to believe that it is. The current background studies are incredibly thorough and exceed federal standards. Subjecting minor children to such scrutiny is an over-reach of power. These children aren't criminals. They simply have a parent who cares for other children. This by nature doesn't make them dangerous.

There is a child care crisis in Minnesota. Repealing this requirement may help reduce the number of providers leaving the field. Not repealing it WILL lead to more providers leaving the field. Unemployment is low. Minimum wage is high. A provider could close her business and get a job that pays just as well, working only 40 hours per week and get benefits without much difficulty at all. While we want to fill jobs in all sectors, we don't want to do that at the expense of our most vulnerable citizens, the children who will not have licensed child care.

The current background studies are stringent and more than sufficient. Please repeal this requirement and provide relief to providers and their minor children.

Theresa Peplinski
3813 Stone Point Dr NE
Rochester, MN 55906
507-529-7639

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ryle Acker and I am a family child care provider from(Hermantown, MN. I support HF 3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minor children living in family child care homes. I support this bill because I don't think children under the age of 18 years old need to be in Federal Database and ask that you support this bill as well.

Ryle Acker

218-340-0218

Discover-learn-and-grow-childcare@hotmail.com

Some possible points to include.

- * The current background studies are incredibly thorough. Our children can be disqualified without ever having been convicted or even charged with a crime. There are teachers working in Minnesota classrooms that could not pass the background studies our children go through.
- * This law was passed behind closed doors and without an opportunity for public feedback or testimony.
- * The current background studies already exceed federal requirements. The Child Care Development Block Grant did not require minors to undergo invasive fingerprint and photograph background studies.
- * Failure to repeal this will result in far fewer licensed child care spots, forcing more and more children into unlicensed care where there is no oversight, no required safety training or background studies. More children are at risk due to this law.

My name is Heidi Strong and I am a licensed family child care provider from Morrison County. I support HF3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minor children living in family child care homes.

I support this bill because my profession should not have the lasting effect that fingerprint and mugshots could have on my own children's future. When a teacher's child gets arrested for stealing a candy bar, their file is closed at 18 and it does not affect their future employment as a teacher, law enforcement or military. My child, because I chose to be a child care provider, they will have a FBI record and it will follow them because of my profession. We already submit our own children to many things that other households don't. We require annual background checks of everyone over 13 so in order for my older son to have friends over during my business hours (including after school/non-school days), they have to have a current background check.

For my own children under 13, I have to "enroll" their friends, meaning the friend counts in my numbers and has to have a complete file with immunizations, permission forms, etc and the same childcare rules have to apply to them until business hours are over. This bill would require my older son's friends to have an FBI background check on file before they can come over. These friends don't even come in contact with my child care children but because my home and property is licensed for child care, technically they are in my licensed space. I tend to be overly cautious and do more than required because I am responsible for other people's children. I currently run a Parent Aware 4 star program.

If fingerprinting/mugshots stay on the books, I personally will be closing my doors the day before my next sons 13th birthday as I will not choose my profession over my family. I currently have 9 different families that would need to look for new care. I ask that you support this bill also. This is not fair to our families.

Heidi Strong
10971 Hwy 10
Little Falls MN 56345
320-616-9737

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,
My name is Heidi Hight and I am a family child care provider of over 12 years in Rochester. I support HF 3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minor children living in family child care homes. I support this bill because this directly impacts my family, business and children in my community and ask that you support this bill as well.

This law was passed behind closed doors at the end of last session and without an opportunity for public feedback or testimony. At the listening sessions DHS has held, they have repeatedly contradicted themselves as to what will happen with the fingerprints. The law requires that the FBI retain them, yet at the meeting in Rochester, we were reassured multiple times that the fingerprints would be destroyed and not retained by anyone. I have the emails to and from DHS addressing this contradiction.

The current background studies already exceed federal requirements. The Child Care Development Block Grant does not require minors to undergo invasive fingerprint and photograph background studies.

Failure to repeal this will result in far fewer licensed child care spots, forcing more and more children into unlicensed care where there is no oversight, no required safety training or background studies. More children are at risk due to this law. I personally know of 3 providers who have told me that they will close their program before submitting their minor children to this version of background checks.

We are already facing a major shortage of child care in the entire state. It is heartbreaking to receive multiple emails and phone calls from desperate parents, looking for infant care, and unable to find it anywhere. They are already resorting to unlicensed care because they have no other choice! Over regulation is driving providers out of the business by the thousands! We then end up with two categories of childcare, over regulated, shrinking availability, licensed care. The other is completely unregulated, illegal child care. By not repealing this law you will be growing the unlicensed demand and shrinking the licensed availability.

Please include my written testimony in the packets for all committee members.

Heidi Highet
1919 1st ST NW
Rochester, MN 55901
Jch-16@msn.com

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,
My name is Sarah Srp and I am a family child care provider for the past 9.5 years from Kasson, MN. I support HF 3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minor children living in family child care homes. I support this bill because:

- *The current background studies are incredibly thorough. Our children can be disqualified without ever having been convicted or even charged with a crime. There are teachers working in Minnesota classrooms that could not pass the background studies our children go through.
 - * This law was passed behind closed doors and without an opportunity for public feedback or testimony.
 - * The current background studies already exceed federal requirements. The Child Care Development Block Grant did not require minors to undergo invasive fingerprint and photograph background studies.
 - * Failure to repeal this will result in far fewer licensed child care spots, forcing more and more children into unlicensed care where there is no oversight, no required safety training or background studies. More children are at risk due to this law.
- I ask that you support this bill as well. Thank you!

Sarah Srp
507-634-6165

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Sarah Srp
Daycare Provider
Faith Formation Teacher
507-634-6165

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Roz Addler and I am a family child care provider from Shakopee, MN. I support HF 3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minor children living in family child care homes. I support this bill because the current background studies already exceed federal requirements and failure to repeal this will result in far fewer licensed child care spots, forcing more and more children into unlicensed care where there is no oversight, no required safety training or background studies. More children are at risk due to this law. I ask that you support this bill as well.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Roz Addler

Addler Daycare & Early Learning

Shakopee, MN 55379

www.addlerdaycare.com

Addler Daycare & Early Learning

www.addlerdaycare.com

Shakopee, MN

952.233.5293

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anna Telecky, and I am a childcare provider in Olmsted county for 14 years. I am offering written testimony in regard to HF2780 . I support HF2780, NOT finger printing my minor children and encourage you to do the same.

My children did not chose this profession, I did. They should not be put in some data base of possible criminals just because their mom is trying to earn an honest living for them. My daughter wants to continue her education and enter the military. How will this look on her record. They tell me no one will know/see. I am inclined from previous acts and information that this will not be the case. If my children must be finger printed why do other people who interact with children not get the same treatment. Teachers? Janitors? Lifeguards? School volunteers? The list could go on. This opens a door that sends a message NO ONE is safe. I will reconsider my profession before I allow my children to be fingerprinted and therefore add to the many licensed providers who have already resigned due to excessive and unnecessary regulations. There is a shortage of professional licensed in home providers and this is one of the many reasons why. Please consider and pass thru this bill that changes my minor children from being fingerprinted. Thank you for your time, much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Anna Telecky
Rochester, MN
annatelecky@gmail.com

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Parrish and I have been a licensed family child care provider for 14 years in Rochester. I love what I do and planned to continue providing quality care to children in my community for many years to come. Unfortunately, in the final hours of last year's legislative session, a number of harmful provisions were added to the HHS omnibus bill without any hearings or notice to the public, one of which was the mandatory fingerprinting and photographing of our minor children. This provision was the final straw for me. As much as I love my profession, I cannot subject my own children to these unnecessary and invasive background studies. I will be one of many licensed family childcare programs to close if this is not repealed.

Please consider the following points;

- **Our children already go through comprehensive background studies.** These studies are so thorough that our children can be disqualified without having ever been convicted or even charged with a crime. They exceed Federal requirements and are more than sufficient to protect children in care.
- **Our children are rarely around the child care children by the time they are 13.** They are in school, at sports events, in 4-H or spending time with friends. My children are NEVER unsupervised around the child care children. This is a self-imposed rule to protect my kids from false accusations.
- **Fewer licensed child care spots places children at risk.** For every family child care provider that closes, Minnesota loses, on average 10 more licensed child care spots. That's 10 more children without quality care or pushed into unlicensed, unregulated programs where there are usually *no background checks*, no training, and no inspections. This comes at a time when Minnesota is already facing a devastating child care crisis. Children are less safe as a result of this policy and all the other policies that have lead to the mass closures of family child care programs over the last seven years.
- **Children age 13-17 who are enrolled in a licensed child care program are exempt from background checks.** The state found it necessary to protect the privacy and rights of teenage children served in a licensed program, even though they are regularly around and have unsupervised access to the other children in care. All we are asking for is fairness and protection for our children too. Our children are not worth less simply because their Mom's or Dad's happen to provide licensed child care services in their

home. These are not circumstances they chose and they should not have their privacy or right's violated because of it.

I implore you to consider the impact allowing this law to stand will have on Minnesota's children. Too many parents are already faced with the difficult choice between quitting their jobs or putting their children in unlicensed care. This law has already led to fewer choices for families. More children have been forced into unlicensed care because of it and children are already less safe as a result. I ask you to stand up for *all* children and support SF 2683.

Thank you,

Jennifer Parrish

Little Learners Child Care

Rochester, MN

507-261-8061

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Susie Felt and I am a family child care provider from Detroit Lakes. I support HF 3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minor children living in family child care homes. I support this bill because of the following reasons and ask that you support this bill as well.

Fingerprinting minors would provide no benefit to the person running a family child care. The county already does a background check on anyone living in the household over 13.

Failure to repeal this will result in far fewer licensed child care spots, forcing more and more children into unlicensed care where there is no oversight, no required safety training or background studies. More children are at risk due to this law.

Many providers I have spoken to have stated that if this passes, they will no longer provide licensed childcare, due to the extreme government regulations on a family based company.

Susie Felt

218-841-7146

felt.susie@gmail.com

Dear Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Angela Dobson and I am a Family Child Care Provider from Cass County in the town of Motley. I support the HF 3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minor children living in Family Child Care homes. I support this bill because failure to repeal this bill will result in fewer licensed child care spots, forcing more and more children into unlicensed care where there is

no oversight, no required safety trainings or background studies. Most children are at risk due to this law. There is already a severe shortage of childcare in our area. People call and ask if I will please try to get a variance to take their child, I already know I am not able to do that. People are leaving childcare due to all the new rules and regulations, and at this point I will not recommend anyone open a childcare knowing how extreme the rules on everything are getting. People in this area are not able to take jobs or use Parent Aware Scholarships because there are so few childcares with openings. I ask that you please support this bill as well.

Thank you,

Angela Dobson
(licensed for 14 years this September)

218-838-5021

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Angie Keen, I have been a licensed provider for 10 years in Anoka County. I support HF 3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minor children living in family child care homes and ask that you support this bill as well.

I support this bill because the current background studies that are done on our children are incredibly thorough. We have teachers in MN that are working with our children that would not pass the background study that our children have to pass.

The federal law only requires background studies on people 17 years and older. Minnesota goes above and beyond that already by requiring a background study on children 13-17. This background study alone should be sufficient to align with federal law. Fingerprinting our innocent children does not ensure the safety of the children in our care, again Minnesota goes above and beyond the federal law already with requiring the traditional background study of our children ages 13-17.

In my eye failure to repeal this bill will result in far fewer licensed child care providers making it even more difficult for parents to find care. I also believe that failing to repeal this bill is going to force more children into unlicensed care where there is no oversight, no background studies done, and no required safety training.

Thank you for taking the time to read this written testimony, please share with all committee members.

Sincerely,

Angie Keen

Licensed Family Child Care Provider in Anoka

651-366-1496

krauseangie@yahoo.com

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee

My name is Sue Kunzer and I am a daycare provider from Anoka County, I support HF 3513, the bill to repeal the fingerprinting of minors living in child care homes. I support this bill because the current background studies are thorough and exceed federal requirements. Failure to repeal will result in fewer licensed daycare homes forcing more and more children in unlicensed care with no oversight or background studies. More children will be at risk. I am asking for your support of this bill HF3513 to repeal.

Thank you

Sue Kunzer

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tammy strecker and I am a 20 year licensed family child care provider from East Bethel. I support HF 3573, the bill to repeal fingerprinting of minor children living in family child care homes. I support this bill because minor children and all adults residing in a family child care home go through a background study that i believe is thorough enough. There is no reason for minor children to be subjected to fingerprinting and ask that you support this bill as well.

Sincerely,

Tammy strecker

Streck01@msn.com

My name is Kim Carl and I have been a child care provider in Anoka County for 11 years. I am giving written testimony in regards to HF3573, repealing the fingerprinting requirement for our minor children.

I have 3 minor children living in my home. Fingerprinting innocent children does not ensure the safety of children in our care. The traditional background studies are sufficient. And why should I have to put my children through the humiliation of being finger printed and photographed when they have no criminal history. Our children deserve the same process same as anyone in the public. This requirement was passed behind closed doors without provider or public input. This is not fair as our voices were not heard.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Kim Carl