

My name is Angie Plantenberg and I am the owner/operator of an in home childcare and preschool program in Brainerd MN. I have been doing childcare for the past 12 years and have had a majority of the children I care for using the CCAP program. I would love to have the opportunity to testify to our government officials on the effects of the proposed cuts to these programs but I can't afford to pay a substitute provider or the gas to go to the cities.

Over the years I have watched the program take so many cuts that it continues to hurt the families that need it the most. As a provider using the program we have had a pay freeze for years with no end in sight. We have now been told that we will be facing not only another pay decrease but that there will be more families cut from the program along with funding being cut from the program. As a provider serving the families that qualify for these programs we are told that it is our choice to take the CCAP payment and if we charge more than what the program allows we will need to collect the difference from the families. I have a really hard time understanding this train of thought because if these families could honestly afford to pay the difference they wouldn't need the program. These are families that we are trying to help get on their feet to help our communities grow but continue to put road blocks in their paths. If people can't afford to pay childcare, then they can't work. If providers can't get paid for doing the services we provide, then again, people can't work. I am just not seeing how these cuts are beneficial to a society that is trying to better itself but getting knocked back at every turn. I hope that we can do the right thing, and allow people to have jobs, pay taxes and become functioning, self sufficient individuals.

Any questions, please feel free to contract me at your convenience.

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