

My name is Ellory Roske, I am a working mother of 3! My oldest is in kindergarten and attends after school care, my 3 year old attends a child care center part time, and I am currently home with my 2 month old thanks to the MN Paid Family and Medical Leave!

Growing a family is not as simple as it once was. To decide how many children we wanted and when to try to have them, we needed to consider the cost of childcare. In fact, it was the factor that weighed most heavily.

When my youngest begins childcare, our annual childcare costs will be \$37,040. (That is part time care, since we are lucky enough to have consistent family help.)

In addition to childcare, babies and kids require “stuff.” As a Minnesota resident, I pay taxes on a lot of that stuff. While diapers are not taxed in our state, diaper wipes are taxed. Baby shampoo, lotion, and sunscreen is taxable too.

But the companies advertising these products to me, the companies that “magically” find you the second you are pregnant, do not have to pay taxes on advertising services.

Too many elected officials understand the childcare crisis - they understand that we should be publicly funding childcare so that it is low cost or even no cost for families and so that teachers can earn wages on par with K-12 teachers. They even say they support funding childcare, but in the next breath they say, “There’s no money to do it.”

By simply including advertising services in Minnesota sales tax in HF4343, we could collect hundreds of millions of dollars. That says pretty clearly that there IS money for childcare, and for all of the other social services we know make our communities thrive.

Minnesota families are tired of excuses. We are tired of contributing to our communities and our state and being told that there isn’t any money to support high quality childcare or education, or making sure kids are fed and housed, when there is clearly money for tax breaks for wealthy companies.

A budget is a moral document. It shows where our priorities are. It is well past time to prioritize our kids and families over wealthy corporations who can more than afford to pay their fair share.