

Dear committee,

My name is Angela Jerry, and I am a licensed family child care provider in Chisholm, Minnesota. I have been licensed for nearly 12 years and currently operate Miles of Smiles Family Daycare.

I am writing to ask you to oppose HF 4382 as introduced. While I support the addition of new license classes and expanded capacities, I have serious concerns about several of the proposed changes to licensing standards.

Family child care providers are already balancing high expectations, rising costs, and an ongoing shortage of available care. Many of us are small business owners working long hours to provide safe, nurturing environments for children in our communities. Additional regulations that are unclear, overly restrictive, or difficult to implement will not improve safety—they will push more providers out of the field.

In my program, I care for multiple children of varying ages each day. Proposed changes that limit flexibility or require constant direct supervision in ways that are not developmentally appropriate would make it extremely difficult to operate effectively. These types of policies do not reflect the real-life environment of family child care and could reduce access for families who depend on us.

We are already seeing a decline in the number of licensed providers across Minnesota. If changes like these are implemented without practical consideration, families in communities like mine will have even fewer options for care.

I respectfully ask that you work collaboratively with family child care providers to develop reasonable, workable regulations that protect children while also sustaining this essential workforce.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Jerry

Licensed Family Child Care Provider

Chisholm, MN

Miles of Smiles Home Daycare

Dear Members of the House Children's and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Holly Dudek and I am a licensed family child care provider in Saint Cloud. I have been licensed for 25 years.

I am asking you to oppose HF 4382, a bill that would make significant and harmful changes to family child care licensing standards.

The thing that concerns me the most boils down to over reach, ie. Physical space mandates & illness policy dictatorship, vague language, ie. "Reason to believe", "clean", "other harm", and micromanagement of everyday operations/intrusive household reporting, ie. Overly specific requirements for fire drills and requiring notification when someone moves out of the provider's home within 10 days.

I feel these things are deeply intrusive and irrelevant to child safety. There's already a huge shortage of in home child care in MN and this bill will force many providers to close, possibly myself. I support my family of 4 with my income so this situation is quite concerning.

I respectfully ask for your support of Minnesota's family child care providers, children, and families by opposing HF 4382 as introduced and working with family child care providers to develop practical, reasonable regulations that protect children without driving providers out of the field.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Holly Dudek
Licensed family child care provider
St. Cloud MN
Princessholly@charter.net
320-237-8484

Dear Members of the House Children's and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Julie Smith, and I am a licensed family child care provider in Prior Lake, Minnesota. I have proudly been licensed for 25 years, serving children and families in my community.

I am writing to respectfully oppose HF 4382 due to serious concerns about how the proposed changes would impact both providers and the children in our care. While I support the addition of new license classes and expanded capacities, many other provisions in this bill are not aligned with practical, evidence-based, or developmentally appropriate care.

Some Concerns with the Proposed Family Child Care Licensing Changes:

- Reduced access for children with special needs due to vague, expansive obligations that create a chilling effect on inclusion and increase provider liability.
- Physical space mandates (such as fencing and exit restrictions) that would eliminate developmentally appropriate play and force many providers to close.
- Illness policy overreach that removes provider judgment and undermines outbreak prevention and continuity of care.
- Expansion of licensing authority into providers' physical and mental health using vague "reason to believe" language.
- Ineligibility standards based on hypothetical risk rather than evidence of harm.
- Erosion of parental and familial rights within providers' own homes.
- Expanded reporting requirements that violate privacy without improving safety.
- Unrestricted parent access to licensed spaces, creating safety and supervision concerns.
- Highly subjective definitions that invite inconsistent and punitive enforcement.
- Infant sleep requirements that exceed evidence-based standards and may unintentionally disrupt safe sleep practices.
- Subjective supervision rules that replace clear, workable standards with unrealistic mandates.
- A medically inaccurate definition of "medication," requiring unnecessary authorizations for common items.
- Excessive cleaning and sterilization requirements unsupported by evidence.
- Micromanagement of daily operations through vague and overly prescriptive rules.
- A significant increase in required written policies and documentation.
- Burdensome requirements to "train" providers on their own policies.
- Mandatory training unrelated to actual duties.
- Intrusive household reporting requirements unrelated to child safety when someone moves out of the home.
- Condescending statutory language that undermines the professionalism of licensed providers.

Critical Concerns

I would like to highlight that brief, supervised separation for children over the age of one is a developmentally appropriate and necessary tool. When used appropriately, it allows a child to calm down, regroup, and regain emotional control while ensuring the safety and well-being of other children. Guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supports the use of brief, appropriate "take a break" strategies as part of healthy behavior management. Removing or restricting this option limits our ability to effectively support children's social-emotional development and maintain a safe environment for all.

I am also especially concerned about the proposed CPR and First Aid training requirements, which fail to recognize equivalent or higher-level medical certifications.

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and first responders (police officers, fire fighters, and other people in the medical field) are extensively trained, regularly perform CPR and First Aid in real-life emergency situations, and are already approved through the Department of Human Services (DHS) for First aid and CPR

requiring a higher level of medical competency than child care providers that does not always include in person, or hands on piece that is required for family childcare providers.

Requiring these professionals to complete redundant, in-person, hands-on child care-specific CPR training is unnecessary and disregards their proven, field-tested expertise. This creates an inconsistent standard in which individuals with advanced, state-recognized medical training are not considered qualified unless they repeat lower-level training. It places unnecessary burdens on providers without improving safety outcomes for children.

Requested Action

I respectfully urge you to amend HF 4382 to:

- Explicitly allow developmentally appropriate, brief, supervised separation as a behavior guidance tool for children over the age of one;
- Explicitly recognize EMT and first responder certifications as meeting CPR and First Aid requirements without requiring duplicative, in-person training; and
- Reconsider or revise the provisions outlined above in collaboration with licensed child care providers to ensure regulations are practical, evidence-based, and sustainable.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of the real-world impact these changes will have on providers, children, and families across Minnesota.

Sincerely,
Julie Smith
Licensed Family Child Care Provider

2883 Center Rd Sw
Prior Lake, MN 55372
jasmithdaycare@hotmail.com

Dear Members of the House Children’s and Families Finance and Policy Committee,
My name is Julie Seydel and I am a licensed family child care provider in Anoka County. I have been licensed for 23 years.

I am asking you to oppose HF 4382, a bill that would make significant and harmful changes to family child care licensing standards. However, I am in favor of the additional license classes and capacities. These changes would include such things as:

- Illness policy overreach that strips provider judgment.
- Universal fencing requirements, basement exit restrictions, and excessive playground rules would eliminate developmentally appropriate play and force many providers to shut down.
- Licensing authority expanded to police physical and mental health. The bill language allows DCYF to demand medical or mental health documentation without just cause.
- Mandatory reporting of any child hospitalization—even when unrelated to child care—while inexplicably omitting “death” from reportable incidents, undermining both privacy and credibility.
- Micromanagement of everyday operations with vague mandates around sun exposure, heat, odors, clutter, and storage—plus excessive, overly specific requirements for fire drills—set providers up for failure rather than improving safety.
- Offensive, condescending statutory language including language implying providers must be reminded they are accountable for children’s care—an unnecessary insult to a licensed profession.

These are just a few of the new licensing standards that would be harmful to family child care providers and the families we serve.

It is important to note that these changes are intended to align with the implementation of the “provider hub,” which was required to be operational by 2023, as well as tiered licensing violations and abbreviated inspections. To date, most child care providers have not yet gained access to the provider hub, and there have been no discussions regarding the tiered licensing violations or abbreviated inspections as part of the broader child care licensing modernization initiative.

I respectfully ask for your support of Minnesota’s family child care providers, children, and families by opposing HF 4382 as introduced and working with family child care providers to develop practical, reasonable regulations that protect children without driving providers out of the field.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Julie Seydel

Licensed family child care provider

Andover

Kozy Kidz Home Daycare

612-518-5546

Dear Members of the House Children's and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Alisha Hoekstra and I am a licensed family child care provider in Alexandria. I have been licensed for 14 years.

I am asking you to oppose HF 4382, a bill that would make significant and harmful changes to family child care licensing standards. However, I am in favor of the additional license classes and capacities.

I love being a family childcare provider. The kids I'm blessed to spend my days caring for become family, & their families become families. I also love how this job benefits my own family. As a person with an autoimmune disease, & a child with a severe heart condition, being able to be in our home while I work has been a blessing. These proposed changes would threaten my ability to be able to continue in this profession though. Especially the outside/playground requirements. Fencing in our entire yard, & other changes needed would be a financial hardship that would not be worth continuing childcare for. And forcing us to follow MDH guidelines instead of having my OWN illness policy would put myself & my medical needs child at risk to illnesses (my current illness policy is stricter than MDH recommendations & all of my childcare families are more than happy to comply to those, as they care about my family's medical situation/health also.) Those would be the 2 things in the proposed changes that would guarantee me needing to leave this profession. But there are many of the proposed changes I think are unreasonable & unnecessary, and I know would cause a lot of providers to close their programs. With already having low family childcare numbers, pushing more providers to close with nitpicky new rules would be devastating for families across Minnesota.

I respectfully ask for your support of Minnesota's family child care providers, children, and families by opposing HF 4382 as introduced and working with family child care providers to develop practical, reasonable regulations that protect children without driving providers out of the field.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Alisha Hoekstra
Licensed family child care provider
Alexandria, MN

Hi, my name is Katy Vaala and I am a licensed family childcare provider in Eden Prairie. I have been licensed for almost 32 years serving families in the west metro.

I am asking you to OPPOSE HF 4382, as it is a bill that would make significant and harmful changes to family child care licensing standards. I am in favor of the additional license classes and capacities as most of the inquiries I get regarding childcare are parents looking for infant and toddler care.

When I began this career in 1995, there were 7 providers within a 6 block radius of my childcare, and a total of almost 14,000 providers across the state. Now there are only 5416 total family child care providers across the state, and I am the only remaining provider within my 7 block radius and beyond.

Some of the proposed changes that I disagree with include:

An illness policy that requires me to follow MDH guidelines and guidance from individual health care providers when they have no idea who else is in the home that I may be caring for that might have immunocompromised health as well as myself and my own family's health status. They also have no idea that I also help care for my 90 year old mom in the evenings and on weekends. This oversteps my ability to keep my own family and the rest of the children in my care healthy and not allow diseases to spread.

Requiring providers to take a car seat safely class when I do not transport. I choose to use my fenced-in backyard for large muscle play and do neighborhood walks which do not require me to have the training.

Parents having unrestricted parent access to my home could put the children in harm's way. There needs to be limits on where and when parents have access to my home.

Excessive written policies on subjects such as screen time are just micromanagement when this should be communicated between parent and provider without a policy page written up on it. Too much overreach.

Mandatory reporting if a child is hospitalized when the reason for the hospitalization did not happen at daycare. I have had children hospitalized late on a Friday night due to RSV or once when a child broke his femur outside of my care. It did not happen here. I see no reason why I would need to report it.

I have been a childcare professional for almost 32 years and having language that implies that I need reminders that I am accountable for the children in my care is offensive, condescending, and rude.

I respectfully ask for your support of Minnesota's family child care providers, children, and families by OPPOSING HF 4382, and working with providers to develop practical regulations that protect the children without causing more providers to close their doors. We cannot afford to lose more licensed in-home childcare providers. Parents need to have the option for a safe, affordable setting for their children to learn and grow. Licensed in-home childcare fits that bill!

Sincerely,

Katy Vaala

Licensed Family Child Care Provider

Eden Prairie

katyjvaala@gmail.com

Dear Members of the House Children's and Families Finance Policy,

I am a family child care provider. I reside in Freeborn County in Minnesota. I have had my licensed in home daycare for over 30 years. I have seen many changes in my profession but nothing like these proposed changes, many which I feel are unfair and unreasonable to providers. Daycare is a much needed and underrated service to thier communities. We work many hours while receiving no benefits. I have missed occasions with my own family to provide reliable service to my daycare families over the years. I fear this vital service may be at risk with this bill. For those that have not had a daycare please keep in mind how much time we already are putting into providing quality care for our children. We do not need more paperwork. We do not need excessive cleaning and sterilization, among other things to provide quality care for children.

I will list a few other things I feel are unreasonable in this bill.

1. Micromangement of everyday operations.
2. Unrestricted parent access to licensed areas in our homes.
3. More required written policies.
4. Mandated car seat training for all, even if not transporting children.
5. Reporting even when children are not even in daycare.
6. Providers could possibly be shut down based on speculative risks only.
7. The language is vague stating if there is reason to believe a claim against a provider DCYF is allowed to demand medical or mental health documentation without just cause.
8. The illness policy seems to be overreach.
9. Physical space mandates are unreasonable.
10. The language on children with special needs is alot for providers.

Alot included in this bill seems to be undue control. It takes the caring, common sense approach away from providers, and the families we serve. Please work with providers to develop reasonable regulations to protect children while not endangering quality daycares to possibly close.

I ask you to please include this email into the committee packets.

Thank you,
Sue Madson

Dear Members of the House Children's and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Summer Bursch and I am a licensed family child care provider in Sherburne County. I have been licensed for 10 years.

I am asking you to oppose HF 4382 as written, a bill that would make significant and harmful changes to family child care licensing standards. However, I am in favor of the greatly needed additional license classes and capacities.

These proposed licensing standards as written still have far too many unreasonable standards and over reaches that causes a provider like myself who has had zero violations and a designated separate space in my home to operate my childcare program questioning if I will be able to continue to operate or want to due to many unnecessary inconveniences on my day to day operations these proposed standards would put on an already heavily regulated profession. I will spend even more of my day making my home less of a home-like environment and spending less time focusing on the children and their needs and more time on overzealous and unnecessary regulation that serves no real purpose in helping keep these children happy, healthy, and safe. Something I have successfully been doing for many children and families for the past 10 years with again, zero violations. Not even a minor offense. If DCYF is so concerned with the health and safety of our most vulnerable population then they need to be doing more with their authority now when it comes to the heavy and repetitive offenders who lack good judgment and do not follow the rules and regulations. However, they seem to continuously allow conditional licenses after circumstances that should not be allowed to ever operate again and allow centers to continue to operate after gross negligent violations that have resulted in severe harm and death of children without any ramifications beyond firing staff members involved. Over regulation of our unique family childcare profession without data driven purpose is not the solution and will only continue to drive our ongoing childcare crisis.

Just one example with these new rules as written is I would no longer be able to have my hot tub that I have had for many years. It would be unfeasible and unreasonable for me to fence it in separately. It has never been a problem. It is in a retaining wall away from the play area with child/tamper proof coverings. With current language this is deemed inaccessible to the children. Where is the data of children getting into these hot tubs and drowning in our settings? There isn't any because it's not happening. But these new regulations would cause me to sacrifice it or close my doors if I don't want to sacrifice yet another thing unnecessarily in my home to operate my business. What was safe yesterday and has been for many years is now suddenly "not". Again, without any data driven purpose or incidents to cause need for this level of costly and excessive change.

The few amendments that have been brought through thus far with the senate and DCYF are a step in the right direction but still are not enough. I respectfully ask for your support of Minnesota's family child care providers and the families/children we serve by opposing HF 4382 and working with providers to develop practical, reasonable regulations that would still protect children without needlessly driving providers out of the field.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Summer Bursch

Licensed family child care provider

Zimmerman, MN

763-568-0601

My name is Tamara (Tammy) Strecker and I am a licensed family child care provider in East Bethel. I have been licensed for 30 years.

I am asking you to OPPOSE HF 4382, a bill that would make significant and harmful changes to family child care licensing standards. However, I am IN favor of the additional license classes and capacities.

I absolutely LOVE what I do. I get to love, care, teach and so much more all the children that have been in my care over the 30 years I have been licensed. The individuals that wrote this bill don't know what really happens in a child care home. They are throwing out words they THINK would promote safety in home child care. Parents chose home child care for the home like feel the children receive. In my case it is ONE person who is caring for them. I get to know the children and families really well and build bonds that last a lifetime. Let providers and the families that trust them continue to keep children safe in their home the best way they can; more polices doesn't make a safer home. It does make providers quit thus leaving parents possibly looking for unlicensed care which could be detrimental to a child.

I respectfully ask for your support of Minnesota's family child care providers, children, and families by opposing HF 4382 as introduced and working with family child care providers to develop practical, reasonable regulations that protect children without driving providers out of the field.

Thank you for your time.

My name is Jill Mogensen, and I have been a licensed child care provider in Brandon, MN for 19 years. I greatly enjoy my work caring for young children and would like to be able to continue to do it for years to come.

I appreciate that DCYF has taken provider feedback and made some positive changes since the first draft of new standards. Still, significant concerns remain. The proposal goes beyond core health and safety requirements and includes numerous burdensome requirements.

Here are a few examples of specific concerns I have with the new draft:

-It calls for providers to write additional policies on various topics. For example, it would require a policy on preventing substance abuse that would impair an individual's ability to care for children. I am the only one caring for children in my family child care. I will refrain from substance abuse. I do not need to take time to write a policy on how I will refrain from it.

-It calls for all providers to serve only meals and snacks meeting federal food program requirements (whether or not they participate on the food program). Food program requirements are quite extensive and include things like what type of milk must be served for each age, having a whole grain served each day, and having two components (two food groups) served at each snack. Following this, if you served 2% milk to a child, you'd be going against a state licensing rule. Serving carrots and celery for snack would also go against the rule (because the snack wouldn't include two food groups).

-It calls for in person checks of sleeping infants every twenty minutes. This would take the provider away from the children who are awake and could potentially disrupt the sleep of the infant. Supervising the sleeping infant with a monitor should suffice.

-It proposes providers can not confine a child in a high chair or swing for convenience. If a provider needs to use the restroom or tend to another task and puts a toddler safely in a high chair with toys, it would seem they might then be considered to be breaking licensing rules.

There are many other concerns. They are too numerous to list in this email.

I am asking you to oppose HF4382 and, instead, work to modify family child care regulations in ways that will ensure children's health and safety while preventing Minnesota's child care providers from leaving the profession.

Thank you for your time. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jill Mogensen
Licensed family child care provider
Brandon, MN

Dear Members of the House Children's and Families Finance and Policy Committee,
My name is Wendy Clark and I am a licensed family child care provider in Scott County. I have been licensed for 22 years.

I am asking you to oppose HF 4382, a bill that would make significant and harmful changes to family child care licensing standards. However, I am in favor of the additional license classes and capacities.

I do oppose the bill for many reasons. But, primarily the imposing and insulting tone makes Providers not want to be supportive of said bill. We already take advice and counsel from our county licensors and other providers in our area. I've had great success with my business for 22 years. If I allowed Parents to linger, observe all day or dictate my curriculum their children would not be able to distance themselves from their Parents enough to learn the rules and planned curriculum. If you've had children attend school of some kind you'll know that many times children behave better for their teachers than they do with Parents. If one set of Parents attends school then soon all Parents will come or kids may feel left out. They may feel like "why can't my Parents come for the day?" Not all Parents can visit or linger or stay long, so it would add to behavioral problems at drop-off. I also do NOT agree with the taking away of sick policy rights for childcare providers especially when Doctors and nurses do not know which children or how many children put toys or learning equipment in their mouths all day long! These are infants to preschoolers and I currently have several students that put their mouths on everything. That means the infants and toddlers would no longer be able to have pacifiers. Which helps some with comfort and sleep. A popped blister from Hand Foot and Mouth disease would mean the spread of a virus throughout my home childcare! COVID, flu, Noro, and RsV viruses would spread like crazy if I allowed children back after 24 hours. Not to mention I would have to frequently close because I would also get sick. The next concern is fencing. I currently don't need fencing. I am able to be outside with our children and teach them the play perimeter. This allows for exploration and creative outdoor learning. All the new limits are just that, "LIMITING"! Please understand that we are trained professionals. Most of us are college educated and have the knowledge and experience to continue teaching and caring for the children of MN wonderfully! Restrictions and more forms and laws truly do not make things better. It's controlling and is often distracting from the children themselves.

I respectfully ask for your support of Minnesota's family child care providers, children, and families by opposing HF 4382 as introduced and working with family child care providers to develop practical, reasonable regulations that protect children without driving providers out of the field.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Wendy Clark

Licensed Family Childcare Provider

Shakopee, MN

happinessiswc19@gmail.com

Dear Members of the House Children's and Families Finance and Policy Committee

My name is Lindsay Jenner and I am a licensed family child care provider in Zimmerman, MN. I have been licensed for 15 years.

I am asking you to oppose HF 4382, a bill that would make significant and harmful changes to family child care licensing standards. However, I am in favor of the additional license classes and capacities.

Running my own childcare for 15 years has brought many tears. Tears of joy as I watch little ones learn how to do something I've been teaching them for the first time, tears of sadness watching a child leave your care after knowing them and loving them daily for 5+ years and now them heading off to kindergarten. And tears of frustration. When lawmakers come in trying to bulldoze their way through "your business" that you have zero say about. I feel like someone is trying to control our every move. From what we feed the kids and when, how often and how we clean our houses, what we put into words in our contracts and policies, what we can and cannot do every single day throughout our entire career. All while we are just trying to love and teach these little learners. I feel like so much of your focus has been taken off the actual care of the kids and put towards paperwork and documenting and "training" us to do everything perfect. Between taxes, accounting, interviewing, vacuuming, scrubbing, meal prepping, planning activities, cleaning, training, licensing, rules and regulations, our jobs are literally never ending. There are days my job starts at 5:30am and doesn't end until 10:00pm. And I truly do love my job. I just want to try to show you how extremely difficult it is let alone to be thrown another 70 pages of regulations. I wish you would let us run our businesses with a little more trust and a little less regulation. Yes there needs to be rules. Yes there needs to be laws in place to protect those youngest and most vulnerable and to keep them safe. But micromanaging our every single move I don't believe is the way to do it. All it's doing is frustrating us more and making more providers want to quit.

Some of the proposed changes I'm most concerned about are as follows:

1. Attendance records. Keeping these isn't going to help anything, it is adding to our paperwork and responsibilities.
2. Supervision. Sight or hearing at all times without the use of monitoring device. How are we supposed to go to the bathroom? With more than a couple kids and one solo person trying to do activities, plan - cook - and clean up after 3 meals a day, change up to 5 diapers multiple times per day and assist in potty training etc. And that's just a tiny glimpse of our day. It is physically impossible to keep eyes and ears on every single child every single second of the day. Quit expecting perfection when you know no one is perfect.
3. I like the idea of the added fire marshal training. I think emergency training is always beneficial.
4. Separation from group. Sometimes separation is necessary, and usually involves the child sitting with ME, working on regulating their nervous system, talking about what happened, calming their body down. This isn't used as a punishment it is used as a break. Kids don't have the impulse control that we do and more times than not, they need a physical separation to stop what they are doing.

Would love to see some hands on examples of more of what we should do for positive guidance instead of everything that we can't do.

5. Quit treating basements like they are all tiny dungeons. My basement is 2800 square feet and my daycare is exclusively 2000 of it! It has a walk out door to our backyard with huge full-size windows and 9 foot ceilings.

6. The new verbiage on dogs and pets. Not allowing any contact between children and pets without direct supervision. Again you are overstepping into our homes and lives. I have two labs that absolutely love the kids and I teach the kids how to be gentle around pets and respectful to them. Now, do I let infants crawl all over them? No. I supervise and make smart choices. But they are my pets and shouldn't need to be kenneled all day because I am busy caring for the kids needs and can't have eyes on them 100% of my day.

I respectfully ask for your support of Minnesota's family child care providers, children, and families by opposing HF 4382 as introduced and working with family child care providers to develop practical, reasonable regulations that protect children without driving providers out of the field.

please include this with your committee packets.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Jenner
Licensed family child care provider
Zimmerman, MN
952-367-7703