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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2991

I find that this bill would be very useful to our community. It's not an easy feat to establish a childcare business. I found myself constantly struggling with childcare for my kids. So many providers couldn't meet the needs of my children. My children aren't hard children but commonly we ran into issues because of lack of training of staff at facilities.

So I started up my own care program to be a part of the solution. I had many barriers occur when I was starting. A lot occurred because of lack of resources to know WHAT I needed to do or what to do first. Or explain the differences to each type of care -- license vs certified vs DHS approved. It's assumed that people just are to know! But really from people who don't know the business, it's not.

I fumbled my way through and took me a year to get licensed because of all the barriers for training (sometimes lack of class availability), for getting a background check in a timely manner, not to mention when getting set up I was dirt broke and expected to pay fees for licensing and water testing. I was fortunate and had a person to help me with it. I had other barriers as well that popped up and I had to figure out how to push things through.

There needs to be more support in getting started. More class availability would be great too. I have ideas on this, but I'll save that for another time. The purpose of my testimony is to state there is a problem with getting started and this bill could greatly benefit our communities.