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My name is Carol Lang-Godin. I am the Executive Director at Lamoille Family Center in Morrisville and the Chair of the Vermont Parent Child Center Network. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak and thank you for your commitment to making Vermont a place we can all be proud of.

We respectfully request that you ***increase the Vermont Parent Child Center Network's Integrated Grant Appropriation by $1.88 million for a total appropriation of $8,909,750 for Vermont's 15 Parent Child Centers.***

Parent Child Center's and their staff are often the trusted people that stand in when caregivers with young children do not have extended family members to offer support and encouragement. We are the Referral Specialists ensuring a young parent knows where to find quality childcare and how to apply for financial help to pay for it. We are the Developmental Educators holding a caregiver's hand when they hear for the first time that their two-year-old has autism. We are the Strong Families Vermont Home Visitors who drop off diapers and food from a local food pantry to a family with no transportation. We are the early childhood experts leading a playgroup so that a child has social interactions and a parent can talk to another adult. We are the case managers helping a family navigate a child's IEP services. We are often the shoulder someone is crying on when they aren't sure how they'll pay their next month's rent or an unexpected car repair comes up wiping out their meager savings.

None of the things I've mentioned can be done without the incredibly dedicated staff who work at each of the fifteen Parent Child Center's across the state. This year at Lamoille Family Center one of our staff celebrated their 40th anniversary at our agency. That kind of commitment to supporting people with young children should be recognized to its fullest and sadly without increases in state contracts then things like salary and benefits increases pose an ongoing challenge for non-profit organizations delivering state contracted services. PCCs cannot continue to be level funded for a third year in a row.

In FY'26 the cost to Lamoille Family Center to cover health insurance for 90% of our staff will cost us close to $325,000. This is an increase from the last fiscal year of $45,000. Continuing to offer health insurance that is fully covered for staff will not be sustainable for long without an increase in funding.

Again, we ask that you increase the Vermont Parent Child Center Network's Integrated Grant Appropriation by $1.88 million for a total appropriation of $8,909,750 for Vermont's 15 Parent Child Centers.

This increase will allow us to allocate $500,000, or $33,000 for each PCC towards increased capacity and support for PCC staff dedicated to delivering the eight core services that guide our work.

Thank you again for your time today and for your ongoing dedication and service. What you do makes a difference.

Carol Lang-Godin