



## Child Care Resource

Testimony – Public Hearing on Governor’s FY23 Recommended State Budget  
Jane Van Buren, Child Care Resource  
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Good Afternoon

My name is Jane Van Buren and I am the part-time executive director of Child Care Resource based in Williston and providing Children’s Integrated Services, Specialized Child Care to Chittenden County child care providers and the children in their care. CCR has been part of the CIS bundle since it began in 2009. We saw no increase in funding for 12 years but during that time we did witness a significant increase in demand for our Specialized Child Care services and a significant decrease in our ability to pay staff to deliver services.

In FY22 the CIS budget received an increase, but it did not go far enough to address the need. Last year state funding increases brought the monthly case rate up to \$600, with the current total annual CIS funding approximately \$11.5 million. An increase to a per member/per month rate to a level that covers actual cost of services requires a \$1.8 million increase in the annual CIS budget, to bring it to \$13.3 million.

In FY23 we are asking for full funding to bring the CIS case rate to \$700.00 per client per month.

What would that mean for families, children and childcare providers? As you know there is a severe staffing shortage in the child care industry in Vermont. That, coupled with COVID has stretched the resilience and capacity of providers and families. We have seen an increase particularly in the past 2 years of young children being expelled from early care for challenging behaviors, which means parents must take time off from work, and more importantly nobody – the provider the family nor the child receive the support they need to move forward and address the situation.

Fully funding CIS in FY23 would, for CCR, translate into increased capacity to prevent traumatic situations by addressing challenges to increase positive outcomes. We work directly with children, their families and providers, and provide resources to reduce the number of expulsions which too often results in traumatic situations for families. The State of Vermont can act now to help prevent the high cost consequences of childhood trauma in adults including incarceration, chronic medical conditions, substance use disorder, and suicide.

I urge you to support a fully funded CIS for Vermont’s children. Thank you