

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: Childcare Testimonial

My name is Ellen Graham, from Brattleboro. I am married with two children, two and nine. We have always struggled to pay for childcare, even though we had some money set aside for our first child. When we had our second child, my husband had to leave a job he loved and was well suited for our family to work in New Hampshire so we could afford childcare.

I have been laid off because of the pandemic and we are surviving on state assistance. I had to pull my two year old out of a great childcare program and lost her spot there. If I was called back by my employer, I would not be able to return until I found childcare. If I find a new job, I would have to earn enough to afford child care, and our household can't function without two incomes.

Please support Bill H171, so that parents can find and afford the childcare they need. Vermont cannot thrive without families, we need to be supported.