

Dear Members of the Legislature,

My name is Catherine Marrin, and I am writing today as a parent, a working professional, and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in St Albans who sees firsthand the profound impact that access to quality childcare has on families.

As a mother of two young children, including a toddler, childcare has been an essential lifeline for my family. Reliable, high-quality childcare allows me to continue my work as a therapist, supporting individuals and families navigating life's most challenging moments. Without access to affordable childcare, my ability to contribute to my community—both professionally and personally—would be severely limited.

Beyond my own experience, I witness daily how childcare access determines the well-being of the families I serve. Many of my clients, particularly those facing chronic illness, perinatal challenges, or significant life transitions, rely on stable childcare to maintain employment, care for their health, and support their families. The financial burden of childcare is already overwhelming for so many. Without adequate funding and support, parents are forced into impossible choices—leaving the workforce, reducing hours, or patching together unstable care arrangements that ultimately harm both children and families.

Vermont has made strides in recognizing the critical role childcare plays in the economic and social health of our communities. Continued investment in childcare funding is not just a benefit for working parents—it is an investment in the stability, development, and future success of Vermont's children. It ensures that families can thrive, businesses can retain a stable workforce, and our communities can remain strong.

I urge you to continue prioritizing childcare funding. Families like mine—and countless others across Vermont—depend on it. Thank you for your time and commitment to this essential issue.

Sincerely,
Catherine Marrin, MSW, LICSW, PMH-C
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