

My name is Kylie McLane. I was born and raised in Vermont and now reside in Essex Junction with my husband and our two young children, Nora, who is almost four, and Annie, who is 20 months. After spending a decade away, we returned home in 2020 to build our family in the state we love—knowing that Vermont has long prioritized early childhood education.

We have been incredibly fortunate to find high-quality childcare for our daughters, but we are being priced out of the market. In less than four years, costs have risen exponentially to reflect the true cost of care. We fully support Act 76 and the incredible impact it has had—making childcare more affordable, opening new spots, and improving quality. It is a critical investment, and it makes me proud to live and raise my family in Vermont.

That said, the work is far from over. Like many families, our income falls just beyond the eligibility threshold for Act 76 subsidies. I currently work part-time while my husband works full-time, and I am eager to increase my hours. However, moving both of our children into full-time care would cost approximately \$45,000 annually—essentially canceling out any additional income I would earn. This financial strain makes it nearly impossible for families like ours to grow professionally while ensuring our children receive the care they need.

Further investment in childcare is critical. Without it, working families will continue to struggle, Vermont businesses will lose talented employees, and our economy will suffer. The cost of care, coupled with rising living expenses, is simply unsustainable. Act 76 has been a transformative step forward, but we must continue to expand its reach to ensure that all families—regardless of income—have access to the childcare they need to thrive.