

To whom it may concern,

My name is Valerie Williams. I have over 30 years in my capacity as a childcare provider and at this point in time am unlikely to go back to school. I spend 50+ hours each week teaching, preparing curriculum, and caring for the children in my program. It's insulting to be told we're not good enough when I've had no complaints from families over the years. I've taken more than the hours of trainings required of me each year as well as taking classes over the years related to childcare on subjects that I've wanted to learn more about. I have a bachelor degree in an unrelated field so I'm hardly uneducated.

There's already a huge childcare crisis in this state and I don't see how this will help that situation at all. It will most likely lead to a large amount of programs closing or becoming unregistered which seems counterintuitive to what the state would want. Centers already have a huge problem as well hiring enough people. I see this adding to that.

Also what about the costs of this? I'm not sure how many persons with degrees would be required but it seems like it would be one per classroom if each classroom of children needs to be overseen by someone with a childcare degree. I would imagine the overhead costs for salaries will increase which most likely will be passed onto parents. As we all know tuitions are at a level that's unaffordable for a lot of families, and I don't see this making that issue any easier either.

In closing it's my belief that this will only add to the childcare crisis our state has and will lead to more programs running unregistered and unregulated. Parents having to avail themselves of these programs because there will be even less available to them.

Thank you for listening,

Valerie Williams