

E-mail Received August 10, 2021

Subject: written testimony

Sandy and whom it may concern:

I would like to provide a written testimony as to why child care workers should be recognized by the Frontline Worker Pay Working Group and why we should receive funds for being essential frontline workers during the pandemic. Child care centers have been open this whole time, we did not close or turn families away during unprecedented times. We answered the Governor's call to remain open so that other essential worker parents could continue to do their jobs. There were many fears in doing this as in our work we cannot social distance. We work with young children who require close contact when it comes to caring for them. We work in small classrooms for 10+ hours a day where we are in direct contact with children. Our field is already underpaid and under respected for what it does outside of a pandemic, let alone during one with increased personal health risk to staff and their families. *The entire population we serve is unvaccinated due to their age.* We are caring for a population 100% vulnerable to contracting COVID, and that puts us at higher risk, even if vaccinated. While there are plenty of essential workers who have kept our communities going, I truly feel that after health care providers, child care providers should be right up there. I urge you to please take the testimony you hear from child care workers seriously. Because of the fact that there is not a lot of compensation as a child care worker the reason we choose this profession is truly out of passion for the work we do for these children, but that does not mean we should be overlooked as we have been for so long. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,



Megan Buesing

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