

E-mail Received August 11, 2021

Subject: Written testimony to be used with Front Line Workers Pay Fund reporting.

Hello! My name is Susan Ackerman and I am a full-time Preschool teacher at Woodview Terrace Montessori in Woodbury, MN and started my fifteenth year there in February of this year.

I am writing this because I worked through all of last year and I want you to know about my experience during covid. My hours were reduced so there was less take home pay from a job that doesn't give me a liveable wage anyway. I took no government money.

I chose to work on behalf of the children and parents I care deeply about. Together, we made it through a very difficult time.

Each day was isolating for everyone involved. Parents were not allowed inside and so contactless drop-off and pick-ups in our parking lots, zoom storytimes, and only a few children at school (who missed their friends terribly) were all a part of the daily routine. And there was a constant effort to clean everything (even more than usual,). Of course, there were no usual activities to parks, special parent and child parties, and no school pictures.

Though emotionally draining, I had to work for myself to stay as healthy as possible. I understood the risk very well as my husband is a nurse and kept me very informed.

It is my hope that some kind of compensation would be granted to me and others like me in the childcare profession. We cared when others were too afraid or couldn't or just wanted an easy ride with a payment from the government.

Thank you for your time.

Susan Ackerman