



10134 44<sup>th</sup> Court NE St. Michael, MN 55376

March 11, 2017

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Hollee Saville and I have been a licensed family childcare provider in St. Michael for 12 years. I have also worked in centers and public preschool and kindergarten programs. I am a trainer, consultant, and mentor for early childhood professionals and have a Master's in Early Childhood Education. I humbly ask for your support of SF 1953.

The family child care licensing system has become punitive, over-regulated, and caused thousands of quality providers to leave our profession. We are denied due process in a system in which the provider is guilty until proven innocent. In our current system, a provider can receive a negative action from the Department of Human Services—regardless of whether an accusation is substantiated by an investigation by the county—and appeal the negative action to the Department of Human Services. Upon appeal, the negative action is heard by an administrative law judge. This process can take up to a year or more, meaning that providers and the families in their care face significant hardship if their doors are closed through this process. Unfortunately, despite the administrative law judge being neutral, an expert in the law, hearing all sides of the negative action, and taking up to 45 days to review the facts and make their findings, DHS can choose to agree or disagree with or modify the judge's findings. After the significant expenses for hiring an attorney, the loss of income, and the time and stress of this process, it's unfair to make them wait for DHS to give their decision, which may or may not be the same as the judge's. This denies them due process.

SF 1953 would give providers due process by making administrative law judge "recommendations" final. It would prevent good providers from being forced out of our profession by an agency that has proven that it needs an audit of its practices.

Please vote for SF 1953 and help fix this system that has vilified family child care providers and caused thousands of them to leave the field. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Hollee Saville  
Licensed Family Child Care Provider