**Testimony of \_\_\_\_Your Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

in opposition to HB-6659 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify on the Governor's proposed budget for the Office of Early Childhood.

My name is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I I live in Town . I am Describe yourself related to why you are testifying\_\_\_ . *Examples: I am a parent with a child on the waiting list, I am a parent with a \_\_ year old child enrolled at\_\_\_. I am a teacher in the 3 year old room at \_\_\_, I am the director of \_\_\_\_, I serve on the board of directors of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

In a few paragraphs:

Tell them why you think the proposed budget isn’t big enough. [What’s in the budget](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VgP_9BKGhMAHBUO6jcvjrv2QzzBGdQKzZ8gB9Oon1W8/edit?usp=sharing) (Please do not include this link in your testimony) If you have a story to illustrate the problem that needs to be solved, tell it.

*Example 1: Parent*

*We’ve been on the waiting list for a spot since September. The program has the space but the classroom is closed because they can’t find a teacher. The problem is that the state hasn’t raised the payment levels since 2015 so the program doesn’t have the money to pay their teachers competitive wages.*

*This is a big problem for me because until I get my child into full time care I can’t go back to work full time. I’ve picked up some shifts when my partner can watch my child but its not what I used to earn and it means we have less time together as a family.*

*Example 2 Teacher*

*I’ve been an early educator for 7 years. I love working with the children and seeing them grow, but for the last 6 years I’ve had to work a second job after my full time job in order to support my family. While I’ve worked two jobs I’ve also gotten my associates degree in early childhood. As early educators we literally help build young brains so that children can reach their full potential, but we’re paid like babysitters. It’s time we fix this. I urge you to raise the payment levels to child care programs through School Readiness, CDC’s and Care4Kids so that child care providers can pay us wages comparable to what our counterparts in the public schools earn.*

If you have facts or figures to back your argument, include them. Remember that electronic testimony can include links. These links can be to documents, interactive maps, even videos hosted someplace else like a Google drive. *Be sure to test your links to make sure they work before submitting your testimony.*

If there are things missing from the bill that you think are important, tell the committee what those things are and why it's important to include them in a revised bill.

If there is a provision of the bill that you can’t live with, tell the committee and tell them why it's such a problem.

Close by thanking the committee for listening and offer to answer any questions.

*A rule of thumb is that a page and a quarter is about what you can say in 3 minutes. Written testimony can be as long as you want, just don’t try to read it all to them. It is generally best if you write testimony and then think about how you want to summarize it in your oral testimony.*