

## Testimony in Support of SB 391:

### An Act Concerning the Recoupment of State Costs Attributable to Low Wage Employers

I am testifying today because the Low Wage Employer Fee, SB 391 would charge a fee to the big corporations that pay very low wages and the fees would go into the child care system. I hope this would give us a little more cushion in our paychecks. I know a few more dollars would take away some of my stress! If the Low Wage Employer Fee made it possible for parents to earn more and still get help to pay for child care that would be good too! It would also push more teachers to stay in their field of interest instead of pursuing something else. Our state shouldn't be leaving its most vulnerable out in the cold. I've worked in child care for more than 16 years and I'm paid about \$12.50 an hour, which means I struggle to make ends meet, and skimp on groceries and bills. I love working with children. I grew up in a huge family and children have always clung to me. It is great being able to provide a child with love and nourishment, and some children don't get this at home. Kids trust me and they remember what they have learned from me. I love being a source of love and learning for kids as they grow. But as prices keep going up my pay has stayed the same. People know we do good work that we teach kids, and keep them safe, and we are on our feet all day but they don't think about our pay. Even after I got my CDA Credentials there was no pay increase. I want to go back to school, but I can't even imagine paying for it. This is a very important job. Child care teachers don't get paid what we are worth, because there is no money in the child care system. The Low Wage Employer Fee would add much needed money into state child care programs which is desperately needed.

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