

From: Iron Range Tykes <irtykes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 8:09 PM
To: Nolan West; Elizabeth Laukka; Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn; Caleb Rohrer; Colie Colburn; Colie Colburn; Lauren Hayward
Subject: bill number H.F.1915

Dear Chair West, Chair Kotyza-Whitthuhn, and members of the Children and Families Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding bill number HF1915 mandating the installation and maintenance of video security cameras in licensed child care centers by January 1, 2026, specifically for monitoring infants and toddlers. While I understand the intention to enhance child safety, I believe this proposal presents several significant challenges and potential unintended consequences that warrant careful consideration.

1. Privacy Concerns:

- * The constant surveillance of young children and child care professionals raises serious privacy issues. Infants and toddlers, who are particularly vulnerable, deserve a sense of privacy and autonomy.
- * The storage and handling of video footage creates potential for breaches of confidentiality and misuse of sensitive information. Clear and robust regulations regarding access, storage, and deletion of these recordings are essential but may not fully mitigate the risk.
- * Furthermore, the digital nature of these systems introduces the very real risk of unauthorized access. Hacking and breaches of security could lead to highly sensitive video footage of vulnerable children being exposed or misused. The potential for individuals to 'tap into' these systems and observe or record without authorization is a deeply troubling invasion of privacy.

2. Impact on Teacher-Child Relationships and Trust:

- * The presence of constant surveillance can create a climate of distrust, potentially undermining the crucial bond between child care providers and the children in their care.
- * Teachers may feel pressured and scrutinized, leading to increased stress and anxiety, potentially impacting their ability to provide high-quality care. This stress could lead to even HIGHER turn over rates.
- * The feeling of constant surveillance may also cause parents to have less trust in the childcare providers.

3. Financial and Logistical Burdens:

- * The on-going maintenance of comprehensive video security systems represent a significant financial burden for child care centers, particularly smaller, for-profit facilities.
- * This cost could lead to increased tuition fees, making child care even MORE less accessible for families.
- * The logistics of managing and storing vast amounts of video data are complex and require dedicated resources and expertise.

4. Potential for Misinterpretation and Misuse:

- * Video footage alone may not provide a complete and accurate picture of interactions and events. Context is crucial, and relying solely on video recordings can lead to misinterpretations and unfair judgments.

* There is potential for misuse of the footage, including selective viewing and out of context viewing.

5. Security and Risk of Unauthorized Access:

* In the digital age, video surveillance systems are vulnerable to hacking and unauthorized access. This presents a significant risk of sensitive video footage of children being exposed or misused. Robust cybersecurity measures are essential, but even the most advanced systems are not foolproof. The potential for individuals to 'tap into' these systems and observe or record without authorization creates a serious privacy and security threat that must be addressed.

6. Alternatives and Recommendations:

I urge the committee to consider approaches that are all ready in place to address child safety while minimizing the negative impacts:

- * Staff Training and Background Checks and their associated costs all ready focus on improving the quality of child care.
- * Adequate staffing levels allows for closer supervision and reduces the potential for incidents.
- * Inspections: Regular and unannounced inspections by qualified professionals ensure compliance with safety standards.
- * Parental Involvement and Open Communication: Open communication between parents and child care providers, encouraging active parental involvement and feedback is a must for a facility to remain in operations.
- * Focus on preventative measures: Increase funding for programs that support high quality childcare, and focus on the factors that lead to abuse and neglect.

It is crucial to consider the broader implications of this proposal. If video surveillance is deemed necessary for the protection of children in licensed child care centers, then consistency demands that similar measures be applied to other settings where vulnerable children/adults are cared for. This includes, but is not limited to, schools, church nurseries, in-home child care, assisted living, and foster care. Failure to apply such standards uniformly would create a disparity, leaving some potentially more vulnerable than others.

I urge the committee to consider the need for equitable and consistent application of any child protection measures. I respectfully request that the committee reconsider this proposal and explore alternative solutions that prioritize the overall quality of care versus driving this industry further into extinction with more unfunded and punitive mandates! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards

Shawntel Gruba Director|Owner
IRON RANGE TYKES Learning Center
8520 Park Ridge Dr, Mt Iron MN 55768
O: 218.248.6881 F: 218-288-5896
virtual tour & info @ www.irtykes.com

Colie Colburn

From: Christina Valdez <director@listoskids.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 5:47 PM
To: Lauren Hayward; Colie Colburn; Caleb Rohrer; Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn; Elizabeth Laukka; Nolan West
Subject: Children and Families Committee H.F.1915

Dear Chair West, Chair Kotyza-Whitthuhn, and members of the Children and Families Committee,

Thank you so much for your bold, innovative work surrounding child care this session. I was honored to testify in support of House File 2617 last week. That was my first time being at the capitol and it was inspiring to be there and see all the members of the committee working together - across party lines - towards positive change.

Then, I was so surprised to learn about another proposal, House File 1915 requiring cameras in child care centers. This is hugely contrary to the collaborative discussion in support of child care licensing reform. House File 1915 imposes new, burdensome regulations on the field of early childhood education that really wouldn't protect children at all.

I understand wanting to protect innocent, defenceless infants and toddlers, because they cannot speak out for themselves to report when maltreatment is occurring. Unfortunately cameras don't tell the full story either. There are always places that are not viewable by the camera where maltreatment could occur. Plus, cameras can only catch when maltreatment occurs. As a mother and as a director of a child care center, I would much rather prevent maltreatment.

The only way to truly protect children is by increasing the professionalism of the early childhood field. The first step toward that is to reduce early care provider's stress by increasing wages, providing benefits and heightening professional development. I'm hopeful that rather than funding video surveillance, you will help provide continued funding for Great Start Affordability and Early Learning Scholarships.

The second step in increasing professionalism is the work being done in your committee already with House File 2617 - that separates health and safety licensing requirements from quality learning requirements. This will help move the system to levels of national accreditation with learning-rich environments where children can safely play, learn and grow.

We all want children to be safe. Cameras, however, only provide a false sense of security.

I urge you to support our most vulnerable population by maintaining funding for scholarships and wages and working on truly modernizing our child care licensing system.

Thank you!

Christina Valdez (she/ella)
Director Listos Preschool and Childcare
1503 2nd Ave NE, Rochester MN 55906
(507) 226-8490

Colie Colburn

From: Child Care Center, Bubbling Brook <bbccc@wolduluth.org>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 12:28 PM
To: Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn; Nolan West; Jessica Hanson; Nathan Nelson; Kim Hicks; Joe McDonald; Pam Altendorf; Nathan Coulter; Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger; Danny Nadeau; Bjorn Olson; Maria Perez-Vega; Samantha Sencer-Mura; Natalie Zeleznikar; Colie Colburn; Lauren Hayward
Subject: Cameras in child care response

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello Everyone,

My name is Lisa Miller. I am the director of Bubbling Brook Child Care in Duluth, MN. Natalie Zeleznikar and I have communicated through the years because of my program wanting to expand and little funding to help us do so. Natalie reached out to me last week asking if my program had cameras in the classrooms. I had let her know that we currently do not have cameras, but has been a ticket item at the last few board meetings. Not because staff have been mistreating children, but to have the video coverage if anything were to ever happen.

I know that video cameras in daycares have become an increasingly common topic for parents, daycare providers, and lawmakers. These cameras are often installed for security reasons and to offer transparency in the childcare process.

Cameras allow security and safety. Cameras can monitor the premises to ensure that children are in a safe environment, particularly in emergency situations.

It prevents abuse and negligence. Cameras can serve as a deterrent to inappropriate behavior or neglect by staff members, as everyone is aware that their actions are being recorded.

It also offers Documentation. Cameras can be useful in documenting certain incidents. It helps resolve any disputes that may arise between parents and caregivers.

However there are cons to them too, which have been topics that my board has been discussing.

The privacy concern, arguing that cameras infringe on the privacy of children and staff as constant surveillance can feel invasive. Some parents do not want their child to be recorded, because they even have a hard time with their child's picture on Facebook.

The Over Reliance of Technology. My job daily is making sure staff have everything, stepping in when they need me, going to every room and talking to staff about issues they may be having. Relying on video surveillance might make some daycare providers less attentive, thinking that the cameras will "catch" any issues instead of encouraging responsible and mindful childcare.

The legal and ethical issues. There are strict guidelines regarding who can access video footage. We have had the discussion that it will only be accessed by the Bubbling Brook Board, Myself (the director) and

state if needed. There can also be concerns over data protection and how video footage is stored or shared.

Also the cost to install and maintain the surveillance cameras can be an additional expense for daycare providers, which might lead to higher fees for parents.

For daycares that are hesitant about full surveillance, some alternatives include:

Parent apps, open communication and open door policies, all of which Bubbling Brook has. Parent apps offer parents access to real-time updates, photos, or videos from staff throughout the day. Open communication and open door policies allow parents to call or come in whenever they want. The families have access to the building the entire time their children are in our care. Daily regular updates and meetings between parents and daycare providers to discuss the child's well-being is also necessary.

Thank you for your time,

Lisa Miller

NOTICE: We are transitioning to a new domain at Waters of Life this month. Please make sure to add BBCCC@wolduluth.org, wol@wolduluth.org, and Ben@wolduluth.org, to your safe senders list so you don't miss any of our emails! Thanks for your patience during this time of transition

Lisa Miller
Director Bubbling Brook Child Care Center
6221 Rice Lake Road
Duluth, MN 55803
218-721-4699
[**BBCCC@wolduluth.org**](mailto:BBCCC@wolduluth.org)

Colie Colburn

From: Alanna Nelson <alanna@sunshinemontessori.net>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 6:35 PM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

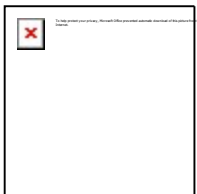
I am highly concerned by the proposal to mandate video cameras and footage retention for child care programs serving infants and toddlers. As the executive director, serving Sunshine Montessori School in Minneapolis for over 20 years, I am very knowledgeable and experienced in licensed child care. My concerns are around 1. PRIVACY and 2. FINANCIAL IMPACT that this mandate would create.

First off, the privacy of our staff and programs is at risk with video surveillance. As we continue to expand in the digital age, is nothing off limits? Staffing is already a major issue, especially for our youngest students as one of the lowest paying and most emotionally and physically taxing positions. To have the ability to "spy" and watch someone at work all day is a massive invasion of privacy. We follow background checks and are one of the states with the most comprehensive licensing protocols, yet this is entirely unnecessary. If there is a quality concern with educators and who is drawn into the field, the real problem is FUNDING and WAGES for these jobs, and increasing the training/education requirements!

Secondarily the cost of this proposal would be outrageous. Here at Sunshine we are a non-profit 501(C)3 organization who has very little to no additional money to use for this type of installation, let alone maintenance and upkeep, troubleshooting, storage, IT personnel, etc. Our playground is around the corner and does not have electricity let alone isn't connected to the building in any way that would allow cables etc. We rent our educational space from a church and have 12" cinder block walls, the thought of installation of something like this is beyond comprehension.

Please DO BETTER and focus on the real problems at hand in childcare...ACCESS, DECLINING # of PROVIDERS, WAGES, and AFFORDABILITY for families.

Sincerely,
Alanna Nelson



Alanna Nelson Executive Director

Sunshine Montessori School
4557 Colfax Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-827-4504 | www.sunshinemontessori.net

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Colie Colburn

From: Marla Kuchler <mkuchler@mainsquaremontessori.org>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 7:09 PM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express deep concern regarding the proposed mandate requiring video cameras to be installed in infant and toddler classrooms.

While I understand the intent behind this proposal may be to enhance transparency and ensure child safety, I urge you to consider the significant challenges this mandate would impose on early childhood education providers. The cost of installing, maintaining, and securely storing video footage is considerable—especially for smaller centers already operating within tight budgets. These resources would be better directed toward maintaining low child-to-teacher ratios, staff training, and educational materials.

Beyond the financial burden, this proposal raises serious concerns about the privacy and rights of the children in our care. Granting access to classroom footage—especially at the request of parents of other children—could unintentionally violate children's rights to confidentiality and create ethical and legal dilemmas around consent and data protection.

As providers committed to the wellbeing and development of young children, we ask that you reconsider this mandate. Instead, we encourage the exploration of alternative policies that promote safety and accountability without compromising children's rights or placing undue strain on early education centers.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to thoughtful policy-making.

Sincerely,
Marla Kuchler
Director & Lead Toddler Teacher
Main Square Montessori
mkuchler@mainsquaremontessori.org

Colie Colburn

From: Annetta Albrecht <btoknowledge@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:48 PM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video camera concerns

Dear Committee Members,

I am very concerned about having mandated cameras in infant and toddler rooms in my center.

1. We are a very small center and even when the business is at capacity, we struggle to make a profit. The financial burden would have to be passed on to the families who are also struggling to make their tuition payments without having tuition raised. And to be honest, I would have to take out a loan to have the cameras put in if it becomes a mandate. Another burden on my center.

2. I am also concerned about privacy. My parents have to sign a form that allows us to put their child on social media, our website, or have their child in a picture that another parent has taken. I have more and more parents that are saying "no".
Now we will be required to have video of all of the children in a room, which goes against the parents wishes to not have their child in any photo that will be seen by others.
IF there is a question about care from a parent and we have to show that parent their child, other children will be viewed by that parent and that will become a legal issue.

3. I am concerned that this decision is being made because of one situation that has been shown in the media lately.
It is not fair for the rest of us who have been in good standing for the entire time we have been in business to be financially penalized because of the actions of others.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Annetta Albrecht

Annetta Albrecht
Bridge to Knowledge Montessori
Owner/Director/Lead Preschool Teacher
11337 Flintwood Street NW
Coon Rapids MN 55448
763-780-5111

Colie Colburn

From: Amy Warzybok <AWarzybok@dodgenaturecenter.org>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:58 PM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Re: Video Camera Concerns

Hi Committee,

Just a quick edit. In my second paragraph I theorize what I think will help prevent injuries, but since I don't have a lot of bandwidth right now to research in my third paragraph, I indicate how important research would be before creating legislation for prevention. In my work with parent coaching and teaching pyramid it was always about building relationships and having supportive environments. Then it moved to teaching SEL skills and finally individualized intervention. Video surveillance wasn't an advised strategy to ensure children have healthy families and a healthy early education experience. NAEYC might have some great resources about this in their ethical code of conduct as well.

Sincerely,

Amy Warzybok, M.Ed. • she/her
Preschool Director
Main: 651-455-4555 • Direct: 651-789-5275

From: Amy Warzybok
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:51 PM
To: colie.colburn@house.mn.gov
Subject: Video Camera Concerns
Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concerns about the video camera law being considered. Childcare center providers already struggle enough to make childcare affordable to families while meeting the current licensing regulations. This regulation would be a large cost to providers in technology infrastructure as well as staff time. Many families I serve at my center have privacy concerns and do not even want their child photographed; video cameras would be very upsetting to them.

Centers should focus their limited resource capacity on higher wages and benefits for their teaching staff, quality learning materials and food for the children in their care, and high-quality training or continuing education money to send staff to college level ECE and CD courses that will ensure staff understand children's development and how to best work with different ages and stages. The best way to protect young children like toddlers and infants is to have high quality teachers in classrooms with education in understanding how children develop and best practices for supporting their development. Cameras may help understand how a child got an injury, but they will not prevent the injuries from happening. The only way to prevent these terrible traumas is to ensure we have the highest quality workforce that is well-educated in child development and earns a living wage. Also, a well-funded mental health consultation program, year-round access to early childhood screenings and intervention resources, and addition of an Occupational therapy consultation.

Please do not move too quickly to pass this reactionary legislation. More research in understanding the cause behind these terrible incidents is needed to prevent them from happening in the first place. Video cameras didn't prevent the recent injuries, they just showed what happened. Research into what actually prevents Abusive head injuries and other traumatic experiences for young children should be the focus on legislation so that prevention tactics can be implemented not surveillance.

Sincerely,

Amy Warzybok, M.Ed. • she/her

Preschool Director

Dodge Nature Center and Preschool

1715 Charlton Street, West St. Paul, MN 55118

Main: 651-455-4555 • Direct: 651-789-5275

DodgeNatureCenter.org



Colie Colburn

From: Shannon OConnor <shannon@southmetroms.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 9:01 PM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Concerns of childcare video surveillance bill

Dear Committee members,

I have grave concerns about the legislation requiring all licensed childcares to have video surveillance in all infant/toddler areas inside and outside.

I would like to testify at the 3 pm meeting tomorrow.

The cost to outfit the toddler areas at my school inside and out, would be astronomical and the expense would need to be passed on to our families that are already financially burdened. There would also be huge costs for storing footage for 60 days. We are a small childcare center, with very low profit margins to begin with and this is not the correct response for preventing abuse in childcare settings. Along with the huge costs comes the privacy issues associated with video surveillance for staff and families, church members. What do we do when families do not want their children filmed? Do cameras go in bathrooms? Hallways? We are located in a church setting with many rooms that toddlers have access to and our outdoor space does not receive good internet access. We would need permission from the church to allow for the cameras in all shared spaces which could cause them concern for their privacy and they may not agree to it. We have pictures, family, children and teacher names on our walls that support our philosophy(Reggio Emilia Approach) and these would be captured on video surveillance which could potentially impact our ability to implement our program plan, if we had to change. Not to mention the time required to go through video footage to provide parents or licensing any footage at their request. We do not have staffing to allow for this, which would directly impact the care of children. DHS licensing requirements are already a laborious undertaking and to add this requirement would be a disaster in ways that we cannot even fathom yet. All centers want to ensure the health and safety of children but this is not the right path. I understand the spirit of bill and it was a horrible event that started it but passing this bill is assuming all centers are guilty of maltreatment and can't be trusted. It also creates more of a burden for small centers, in competing with large childcare chains which have much more financial resources than we do. I urge you to not allow this to pass it could have grave consequences in an already struggling and shrinking childcare industry.

Thank you for your support of this important decision.

Shannon OConnor
Director/Owner
South Metro Montessori School
Lakeville Mn.

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From: Jennifer Orth <jennifer.orth@hypointechildcare.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 9:07 PM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of my child care centers, and as a voice for small child care providers across our state, to express strong opposition to HF 2436, which would require all licensed child care centers serving infants and toddlers to implement indoor and outdoor video surveillance systems.

While I understand and appreciate the intention of this bill—to promote safety and accountability in early childhood settings—the unintended consequences of this mandate would create serious financial, operational, and ethical burdens on child care providers, families, and staff.

The cost of implementing and maintaining a video surveillance system that meets the proposed requirements is substantial. Based on our own research and quotes for each of our centers, setting up a system with the capacity to record and securely store footage for 60 days would cost between \$15,000–\$23,000 in the first year for each one of of centers, with ongoing annual costs of \$5,000–\$9,000 for storage, maintenance, and service fees.

As a small business already operating on narrow margins, this cost is unsustainable without raising tuition—putting even more financial pressure on working families who are already struggling to afford child care. Simply put, this mandate will force providers to choose between increasing costs to families or closing their doors entirely.

Privacy & Security Concerns

Installing cameras throughout infant and toddler rooms, as well as outdoor play areas, raises serious privacy issues for both children and staff. Parents trust us to provide a nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment for their youngest children. Turning those spaces into constant surveillance zones risks turning child care into something more institutional than educational.

Moreover, secure storage and transmission of video footage introduces cybersecurity risks, especially for small providers who do not have access to IT staff. A breach or misuse of video data could have devastating consequences for children’s privacy.

Time Burden on Child Care Staff

Under this mandate, child care providers will likely be responsible for reviewing, retrieving, and sharing video footage. This is a time-intensive task that will take staff and administrators away from what matters most: caring for and engaging with children. In an industry already facing workforce shortages, adding this responsibility will further strain an already overburdened workforce.

I ask that lawmakers reconsider this proposal and instead work in partnership with providers to find meaningful, realistic ways to enhance safety in early childhood environments— without creating costly requirements that strain child care programs and make it even harder for families to access affordable, high-quality care.

Thank you for your time and your service to children and families in our state.

Jen Orth

Hypointe Childcare
8755 Upper 208th St W
Lakeville, MN 55044
952-595-6300

AND

3438 151st St W
Rosemount, MN 55068
651-423-9580

www.hypointechildcare.com



Colie Colburn

From: Heidi Wolf <hwolf@bsmschool.org>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 9:53 PM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

- Dear Committee Members"
- List the top concerns of your program if this becomes law. Cost of acquiring and maintaining the equipment - if you have any idea what it could cost you, say it. Cost to retain footage for 60 days. Staff time necessary to review and pull video when parents or staff request it. Privacy or security concerns. Whatever issues would impact your program the most.
- Sign with your name and the name and address of your program(s)

Dear Committee Members-

I am an early childhood educator in the St Louis park area. I have been in the field for 25 years in many settings: private Nanny, nursery school, childcare center and currently in an on site employer based care setting. This amendment is an invasion of privacy, and overstepping. It becomes close to a police state. I am concerned who will have access to the film footage and security, what it filmed. The footage could be hacked and stolen.

The implementation of this would be cost prohibitive to small programs on both camera maintenance, fees for storage and staff to maintain it.. Also having this gives a false sense of security that could lead to other in person means of monitoring like peers & director supervision.

It is horrible that the people working with children mistreated them in these abusive ways, but filming every movement is not what prevents these situations.

What will help is education of childcare providers, paying a living wage, supporting them with needed health care and removing some of the stress that comes from these compounding factors. We need screening to filter out those who are not fit to care for children. That is prevention, not filming and spending money on equipment and video storage.

Thank you for Voting **against** mandating cameras in early childhood programs!

--

Heidi Wolf
Little Knights Early Childhood Program
Teacher, Program Director

Benilde-St. Margaret's
2501 Highway 100, St. Louis Park, MN 55416
Office:952-219-8980ext 3080

BSMschool.org



From: Aaron Amic - The Goddard School® <Aaron.Amic@goddardschools.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:10 PM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

I'm the owner of two Goddard School early childhood centers in Minnesota — one in Plymouth and one in Medina — serving over 250 families. I'm writing to respectfully share concerns about the proposed amendment requiring video surveillance in all infant and toddler classrooms and outdoor play areas.

I deeply appreciate the committee's commitment to child safety and understand the intent behind this bill. However, I'm concerned that this approach could create significant unintended burdens for providers like us, while offering limited additional benefit to the children and families we serve.

We worry this approach is too broad in scope – we should start with centers that are repeat offenders first.

If this kind of requirement is warranted, perhaps it could first be applied to programs with repeated major licensing violations or suspensions? Minnesota already holds child-care centers to some of the highest standards in the country, and most providers — including us — work hard every day to meet those expectations. A statewide mandate feels more like a penalty for those who are doing things right, rather than a targeted tool for improving safety where issues are more likely to occur.

In our experience, surveillance is rarely as helpful as people imagine.

In the past, we have used cameras, and in nearly every case, the footage has failed to provide helpful context. Without clear sound and context, grainy video often raises more questions than it answers. What it does do consistently is drain administrative time — time we could otherwise spend supporting classrooms and ensuring quality care.

The financial impact would be considerable.

Outfitting multiple classrooms and outdoor areas with cameras of any real quality at both of our schools would carry considerable cost — and that's just for installation. Because footage must be stored for 60 days (or longer), we would need to rely on cloud-based storage or a very costly dvr to hold that much data, which adds ongoing costs that are not insignificant. These expenses would inevitably raise tuition rates, something we strive to avoid, especially at a time when families are already facing rising costs.

There are also real concerns around data privacy and security.

Cloud storage of sensitive video footage involving infants and toddlers introduces new risks, despite best efforts to follow secure practices. Even with safeguards in place, storing and managing this volume of data would require significant infrastructure and oversight.

We fully support efforts to ensure child safety, and we're always open to improving our practices. We simply hope that any mandates take into account the operational realities of centers like ours, and the delicate balance between quality, cost, and accessibility.

Thank you for the important work you do on behalf of Minnesota families, and for considering our perspective as part of this conversation.

Warm regards,
Aaron Amic

Owner, The Goddard School – Plymouth & Medina
16755 County Road 24, Plymouth MN 55447

Colie Colburn

From: Nancy Thomas <nrthomasle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 5:59 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video camera requirements

Good Morning Committee Members

I'm Nancy Thomas from Happy Time Day Care Center in Duluth Minnesota. Happy Time has been a licensed child care program since 1969.

I have concerns about the bill requiring video cameras for indoor and outdoors infant toddler programs.

1. Video cameras are expensive. Child Care programs have really tight margins often struggling to make their ends meet. This expense would put additional strain on child care budgets.
2. Installation of cameras are an additional cost to child care programs.
3. Retaining the records and allowing parents to review the footage upon request. Child care providers first responsibility is to care for the children they serve. Pulling themselves away to retrieve the footage would require them to stop providing care for the children in attendance.
4. The cost of child care is already very expensive to families. The only way our program could afford a video surveillance system is to pass on this expense to families.
5. Happy Time along with many programs across the state serve families that receive child care assistance and state scholarships. These families would have to pay for the cameras out of pocket of which they cannot afford.
6. Many programs across the state do not have support staff like franchised programs can afford to hire. Smaller programs employ only the required staff to operate. How would staff be available to pull footage for review while caring for the children? Directors already work 40-50 hours per week just to maintain the program and cover for staff who called in sick or are on
7. Hiring quality staff is difficult when the hourly pay programs can afford to pay is so low. With that said, state funding to provide quality training for staff would be money well spent.
8. It is the people serving families and children that make the choices of how they care for children. Cameras are not going to change the care provided. Providing equity in wages and budget, proper training, appropriate state monitoring will make a difference in the care children receive.

Sincerely

Nancy Thomas
Happy Time Day Care Center

Colie Colburn

From: Lydia Pietruszewski <lydia@pinepals.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6:35 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

I urge the committee to vote against the amendment mandating video security cameras in all licensed child care centers that care for infants and toddlers.

My primary concern for my programs is the significant financial burden this would impose on us. I am the Director of two licensed child care centers in Bemidji, Minnesota, that together are licensed for 130 children, with 70 of those children in the infant and toddler age category. The costs to purchase and maintain equipment, retain records, and the staff time required for this proposed mandate would be impossible. Parents are already struggling to afford child care, and we would have no choice but to increase tuition, placing further burden on working parents. Staff priority is the health and safety of children, which means direct supervision and building healthy relationships - not spending time on video records that could also violate privacy and security concerns.

What we need is better financial support to hire, train, and retain high-quality caregivers that would allow for smaller group sizes of children and higher ratios of caregivers to children. We do not need another financial and time-consuming mandate that takes our time away from providing the best care to children.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Lydia Pietruszewski, Director

Pine Pals Intergenerational Learning Child Care and Preschool
1700 30th St NW
Bemidji, MN

Pine Pals Nest Infant-Toddler Child Care
3807 Greenleaf Ave NW
Bemidji, MN

218-444-5151

www.pinepals.org

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Colie Colburn

From: Mande Hatten <merrymoosechildcare@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6:37 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Mandated Video Camera

Good morning, Colie.

I trust this message finds you well. My name is Mande Hatten, and I am the owner of six childcare centers located throughout Central Minnesota, specifically in Richmond, Cold Spring, Marty, and Rockville. Our centers serve as a vital resource for families in these rural communities, offering essential childcare services in areas where such opportunities are often limited. We have leveraged existing infrastructure in these communities to create facilities that support both local families and the broader community.

I am reaching out to you regarding the proposed video surveillance mandate for licensed childcare centers, specifically in all infant and toddler rooms. While I understand the intent behind this proposal, I believe it is not a practical solution for programs already facing significant challenges in maintaining affordable childcare services. Additionally, we are committed to fairly compensating our staff for the essential and demanding work they do each day.

I wish to formally express my opposition to this mandate. The associated costs would be burdensome to both my programs and the families we serve. In many cases, families simply cannot afford additional financial pressures, nor can our program absorb these costs. Furthermore, the State of Minnesota already has policies and procedures in place under the Mandated Reporting statute to ensure the safety of infants and toddlers in licensed childcare settings. I believe it is unjust to penalize the majority for the actions of the few.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I look forward to your understanding and continued dialogue on how we can best support childcare programs and families in our communities.

Mande Hatten MEd. ECE

Owner/Director

Merry Moose Childcare and Preschool LLC

Cold Spring Infant Toddler and Pre-K Center 320-292-3266

Rockville Toddler and Pre-K Center 320-443-0176

Rockville Infant Center 320-217-3017

Richmond Toddler Center 320-241-0248

Richmond Infant Center 320-292-7692

Richmond Pre-K 320-292-2247

Colie Colburn

From: Olive Smith <olive@pinepals.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:00 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to vote against the proposed amendment that would mandate video security cameras in all licensed child care centers that serve infants and toddlers.

As the Business Manager of two licensed child care centers in Bemidji, Minnesota, together licensed for 130 children, with 70 in the infant and toddler age category, I am deeply concerned about the financial implications of this mandate. The costs associated with purchasing and maintaining the equipment, managing the records, and allocating staff time would be unsustainable, very likely forcing our programs to close. The cost alone for cameras and installation in licensed spaces in our buildings would be nearly \$50,000.

With parents already struggling to afford child care, we would be forced to increase tuition, adding to their financial strain. Our staff prioritizes the health and safety of the children through direct supervision and nurturing relationships, an approach that could be undermined by the time-consuming task of managing video records, which also raises privacy and security concerns.

Instead of imposing mandates that divert resources, we need increased financial support to hire, train, and retain high-quality caregivers, which would allow for smaller group sizes and improved caregiver-to-child ratios. What we need are solutions that allow us to dedicate our time and energy to providing the best possible care for children.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,
Olive

Olive Smith, Business Manager
Pine Pals Child Care Centers
Bemidji, MN
"Wholehearted Care and Education for the Whole Child"
218-444-5151
www.pinepals.org
Find us on Facebook!

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Colie Colburn

From: Nate McCallister <nate@sonshinelearningcenter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:06 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Cc: Pastor Connie; Abby McCallister
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing about my concerns over the proposed amendment requiring video cameras in early learning programs. As a parent of young children who attended the programs this amendment is aimed at, an early childhood educator, director, and treasurer with over 20 years of experience leading early education programs, I understand and appreciate the desire to advocate for and protect young children.

I am also troubled by this proposal. As centers struggle to stay open, keep costs down and increase pay, proposals like this highlight the lack of understanding or willingness to empathize with those of us who have worked in the field and successfully managed programs for any meaningful period of time.

I recognize that many programs do already use cameras. All programs are different. The financials can vary greatly as can the wants and needs of the staff and families. I can imagine that for some not having cameras would be more costly than having them in terms of their overall business. This currently is not the case for either of our centers. I am unaware of there ever being a request for cameras by a parent. Staff also are usually with another staff person who is a mandated reporter.

I know others in the field are troubled by privacy issues among other issues around the cameras. I am not as concerned about that. Cameras could be useful. If the state wanted to send someone out on the weekend and install the cameras and software, then hire a company to manage all of the licensing requirements and share the footage as needed, I'd support the proposal. Otherwise, I won't.

Thank you,

Nate McCallister
Treasurer SonShine Learning Center
SonShine Luther Site Director

1568 Eustis Street Lauderdale, MN 55108
680 Highway 62, Mendota Heights, MN 55118

--

Nate McCallister

651-756-1530 | Acting Executive Director

www.SonShineLearningCenter.net

1568 Eustis Street | Lauderdale, MN 55108

Colie Colburn

From: magan paulson <magan2121@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:35 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members

Top Concern is cost of acquiring and maintaining the equipment and the cost to retain footage for 60 days. Staff time necessary to review and pull video when parents or staff request it. Privacy or security concerns are just a few! Do not pass this bill when childcare is already struggling to keep the doors open!

Magan Gades, Manager at CCM HEALTH Child Care Center

Colie Colburn

From: Tricia DeMarais <tricia.demarais@hypointechildcare.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:40 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

I'm reaching out today not only as the owner of child care centers, but also as someone who deeply understands the day-to-day challenges and joys of providing safe, nurturing care to infants and toddlers. I'm also speaking on behalf of many small child care providers across our state who are worried about the impact of HF 2436, the proposed legislation that would require video surveillance in all licensed child care centers serving infants and toddlers.

I want to start by saying—I fully recognize the intent behind this bill. We all want what's best for children, and safety is always a top priority in early childhood settings. But I hope you'll take a moment to consider the real and unintended consequences this mandate could bring for providers, families, and staff.

The financial burden alone is staggering. We've gathered quotes for each of our centers, and the costs to install, store, and maintain a system capable of saving footage for 60 days come in at \$15,000–\$23,000 per center in the first year, with annual costs ranging from \$5,000–\$9,000 afterward. For small centers like ours—already working with tight margins—this kind of expense is simply not feasible without significantly raising tuition for families who are already struggling with the high cost of care. It's heartbreaking to say this, but it could push some providers to close their doors.

Beyond the dollars, there are ethical and emotional concerns. Infants and toddlers deserve spaces that feel like home—cozy, comforting, and built on trust. Installing cameras in every room and playground shifts that tone toward something far more institutional. And for staff, who pour their hearts into their work every day, the idea of being monitored constantly creates a sense of mistrust in a field that depends so much on relationships and connection.

There are also serious cybersecurity concerns. Small centers like mine don't have IT departments. Managing and protecting sensitive video data opens the door to potential breaches—something no one wants, especially when it involves children.

And then there's time—something none of us in this field have enough of. Reviewing, managing, and responding to footage requests would pull administrators and teachers away from what matters most: the children. In a time when we're already facing staffing shortages, this could add yet another stressor to an already overwhelmed workforce.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider this bill. Let's work together to find real, collaborative solutions that enhance safety without placing an unsustainable burden on child care programs or making high-quality care even harder to access.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of Minnesota's children and families. Your time and commitment are appreciated more than you know.

Warmly,

Tricia DeMarais

Hypointe Childcare- Lakeville

8755 Upper 208th St W

Lakeville, MN 55044

952-595-6300

AND

Hypointe Childcare-Rosemount

3438 151st St W

Rosemount, MN 55068

(651) 423-9580

www.hypointechildcare.com



Colie Colburn

From: Kari Boese <kboese@calvary.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:42 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

I have concerns about the Video Camera amendment being discussed today.

- The costs for acquiring, installing, and maintaining cameras in our toddler classrooms and playground as well as the costs to store this data for 60 days, would be a very expensive licensing mandate. In order to remain open, we would have to pass these expenses on to our families who are already paying high costs for childcare.
- Due to being understaffed for several years and unable to find qualified teacher candidates, our staff is already operating at maximum capacity, we would be negatively impacted by having to add a job duty for someone on staff to review and pull video when requested by parents or staff.
- Many of our families do not want their children to be recorded and I have concerns as to the time it would take to create and enforce a policy that will protect their child's security and privacy.

Please do not move forward with this amendment without more consideration of the impacts that it will cause.

Kari Boese
Calvary Hourly Childcare
7520 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427



Kari Boese
Hourly Care Director, Calvary Early Learning Programs

763 545 9042 calvary.org kboese@calvary.org

7520 Golden Valley Rd, Golden Valley, MN 55427



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We are looking for teacher qualified individuals who love working with kids.

Colie Colburn

From: Rita Miller <director@childgardenmontessori.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:54 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera In Licensed Child Care Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

While I understand the reason to want video cameras in child care centers, I am against it for the following reasons:

1. Cost.
 - Who is going to pay to install and maintain the cameras? Child Care centers are already having a hard time meeting expenses without making child care unaffordable.

2. The logistics are impractical.
 - Would you put cameras in the bathrooms? That's inappropriate and an invasion of privacy.
 - How about the nap rooms when the lighting is off for the children to sleep - video cameras would not show any abuse except extremely flagrant.
 - Would you have to put cameras everywhere that the children could possibly be? All areas of the playground, all corners of the rooms, the kitchens, hallway bathrooms, etc..
 - Many child care centers are in churches where there are many other rooms besides the classrooms. Would you put cameras in all of the hallways and rooms of the church?

For these reasons I am against a mandate to put video cameras in child care centers.

Sincerely,

Rita Miller
Director
Child Garden Montessori School
1601 Laurel Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55403
612-377-1698 ext. 202

Colie Colburn

From: Kelly Kritsberg <k.kritsberg3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:55 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Concerns of childcare video surveillance bill

Dear Committee members,

I have grave concerns about the legislation requiring all licensed childcares to have video surveillance in all infant/toddler areas inside and outside.

I would like to testify at the 3 pm meeting tomorrow.

The cost to outfit the toddler areas at my school inside and out, would be astronomical and the expense would need to be passed on to our families that are already financially burdened. There would also be huge costs for storing footage for 60 days. We are a small childcare center, with very low profit margins to begin with and this is not the correct response for preventing abuse in childcare settings. Along with the huge costs comes the privacy issues associated with video surveillance for staff and families, church members. What do we do when families do not want their children filmed? Do cameras go in bathrooms? Hallways? We are located in a church setting with many rooms that toddlers have access to and our outdoor space does not receive good internet access. We would need permission from the church to allow for the cameras in all shared spaces which could cause them concern for their privacy and they may not agree to it. We have pictures, family, children and teacher names on our walls that support our philosophy(Reggio Emilia Approach) and these would be captured on video surveillance which could potentially impact our ability to implement our program plan, if we had to change. Not to mention the time required to go through video footage to provide parents or licensing any footage at their request. We do not have staffing to allow for this, which would directly impact the care of children. DHS licensing requirements are already a laborious undertaking and to add this requirement would be a disaster in ways that we cannot even fathom yet. All centers want to ensure the health and safety of children but this is not the right path. I understand the spirit of bill and it was a horrible event that started it but passing this bill is assuming all centers are guilty of maltreatment and can't be trusted. It also creates more of a burden for small centers, in competing with large childcare chains which have much more financial resources than we do. I urge you to not allow this to pass it could have grave consequences in an already struggling and shrinking childcare industry.

We should be supporting Childcare Centers with Professional Development trainings to centers to insure the safety of our children, families, and staff. Continued education and support for childcare staff needs to be a priority.

Thank you for your support of this important decision.

Kelly Kritsberg
Assistant Director
South Metro Montessori School
Lakeville Mn.

Colie Colburn

From: Marnie McPherson <marnie@wbms.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:56 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera requirement

Dear Committee Members,

I just read the proposal set to be discussed today. My concern is the expense of this requirement having just installed a few basic outdoor security cameras, I'm aware of how expensive this added requirement could be, especially for smaller programs than ours.

If discussions around grant funding should take place to help us with this unexpected expense, please do not restrict funding to programs only in zones serving under privileged children. My program will be stretched just as much as any other and I'll be forced to look at tuition rates to help compensate.

Respectfully,

From: Abby McCallister <mccallisterabby@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:57 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

I appreciate the concerns behind the proposed amendment and understand why, at first glance, it might seem like a beneficial measure to implement in our state. However, I would like to raise a few important considerations that I hope the committee will also take into account:

1. **The message it sends to families and staff:** Requiring video surveillance could unintentionally convey the message that child care settings are unsafe and must be constantly monitored. This undermines the trust families place in us and the confidence we work so hard to build.
2. **Impact on staff recruitment and morale:** At a time when we are already facing significant staffing shortages, adding surveillance may discourage potential employees. It could make current staff feel as though they are not trusted in their roles. Few professions require individuals to be under constant watch, and this level of scrutiny could negatively affect the work environment.
3. **Parental choice already exists:** Some centers already offer live camera access to families. If this is a priority for parents, they have the option to choose a center that aligns with that value. Mandating cameras removes this element of choice and autonomy from both providers and families.
4. **Uneven application of the regulation:** From what I understand, incidents involving harm to young children have more frequently occurred in in-home care settings rather than in licensed centers. Yet, the proposed requirement would apply to centers. This seems misdirected and unfairly punitive to center-based programs.
5. **The burden on center leadership:** Even if the financial cost is covered through grants, the administrative and logistical burden of installing, maintaining, and managing camera systems would still fall on center directors—who are already stretched thin. Reading through the proposed requirements is overwhelming, especially for centers caring for younger children. Many of us are already taking on multiple roles due to staffing shortages.

There is a breaking point. Many of us directors are doing all we can to create the safest, most nurturing environments for children, families, and staff. But we cannot continue to take on more responsibilities without support. The reality is, we don't have extra hands to take on these new tasks—our team members are already doing their best just to keep classrooms running.

I would respectfully ask the committee to consider this: Could the grant funds being considered for camera installation instead be directed toward staff recruitment, retention, and training? These investments would directly strengthen the quality of care and help elevate the profession in a way that inspires others to join us in this important work.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective.

Sincerely,

Abby McCallister

From: Lori Semke <Lori@misamigosimmersion.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 8:11 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

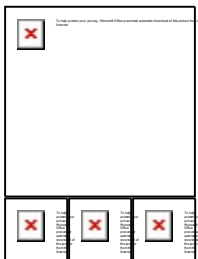
Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my concern about the proposed amendment requiring all licensed child care centers serving infants and toddlers to install video surveillance and retain footage for 60 days to 6 months.

I know that other providers are submitting more detailed comments, but I wanted to lend my voice as well in support of the key concerns those testifiers are sharing about this mandate:

- This is an **unfunded or underfunded mandate** that places significant financial burden on licensed child care centers.
- Child care providers already operate on thin margins and **struggle to absorb additional costs**, especially for infrastructure like cameras, software, and video storage.
- **These costs will be passed on to families**, making child care less affordable and less accessible.
- The mandate **applies only to licensed child care centers**, which are already highly regulated, while excluding other care settings—creating an **uneven and unfair burden**.
- It is **unclear whether the full cost and statewide impact** of this requirement have been properly evaluated.
- There are **more effective and proactive ways to prevent abuse and maltreatment**, such as investing in staff training, coaching, strengthening safety protocols, developing strong relationships with families and supporting workforce development.
- **Before passing a mandate like this**, the state should ensure it is fully funded and supported by data showing it will improve safety outcomes for children.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns,
Lori Semke



Lori Semke
Chief Operating Officer, Mis Amigos Preschool
lori@misamigosimmersion.com | misamigospreschool.com



Compañerismo | Profesionalismo | Positivismo | Integridad | Respeto

Colie Colburn

From: Penny Allen <pennya079@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 8:36 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Requiring video surveillance of all infant and toddler areas in all programs across the state seems overreaching and will not stop anything. Child care is already expensive for families, and providers do not have extra cash to pay for more regulations. This cost will result in higher tuition for families. It also seems aggressive and a breach of confidentiality for others within the classroom.

If this is required of licensed child care centers, shouldn't it also be required of licensed home daycare? There is historically more risk associated with a single home provider.

Colie Colburn

From: Erin Norstedt <bigwoodsgccc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

As the owner and director of a licensed childcare center, I want to express my concern regarding the proposal to require cameras in infant and toddler classrooms. While I fully support transparency and the safety of children in our care, I believe mandating surveillance raises significant concerns that warrant careful consideration.

First and foremost, the financial burden on centers—especially small, independent ones—would be substantial. Installing and maintaining a secure, high-quality camera system is a costly endeavor that many centers simply cannot absorb without increasing tuition or cutting resources elsewhere, both of which directly impact families.

Moreover, I am deeply concerned about the effect such a mandate could have on teacher morale and trust. Our educators are highly trained, compassionate professionals who deserve to feel respected and supported. Constant surveillance could create a climate of suspicion rather than collaboration, and may deter talented caregivers from entering or remaining in the field.

Finally, there are complex privacy implications involved, especially when it comes to protecting the identities of young children and ensuring that any footage is securely stored and not misused. The potential for legal and ethical challenges is high, and would place yet another administrative strain on centers already working hard to meet a wide range of regulations.

We all want what's best for children. I respectfully urge decision-makers to consider alternative approaches that support quality care without placing undue hardship on the very centers and caregivers dedicated to providing it.

Erin Norstedt

Big Woods Child Care Center
www.bigwoodsgchildcare.com
763.972.2176

Colie Colburn

From: Stephanie Schultz <firstyearswaconia@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Video Camera Concerns

Dear Committee Members,

As the owner and director of a licensed childcare center, I want to express my concern regarding the proposal to require cameras in infant and toddler classrooms. While I fully support transparency and the safety of children in our care, I believe mandating surveillance raises significant concerns that warrant careful consideration.

First and foremost, the financial burden on centers—especially small, independent ones—would be substantial. Installing and maintaining a secure, high-quality camera system is a costly endeavor that many centers simply cannot absorb without increasing tuition or cutting resources elsewhere, both of which directly impact families.

Moreover, I am deeply concerned about the effect such a mandate could have on teacher morale and trust. Our educators are highly trained, compassionate professionals who deserve to feel respected and supported. Constant surveillance could create a climate of suspicion rather than collaboration, and may deter talented caregivers from entering or remaining in the field.

Finally, there are complex privacy implications involved, especially when it comes to protecting the identities of young children and ensuring that any footage is securely stored and not misused. The potential for legal and ethical challenges is high, and would place yet another administrative strain on centers already working hard to meet a wide range of regulations.

We all want what's best for children. I respectfully urge decision-makers to consider alternative approaches that support quality care without placing undue hardship on the very centers and caregivers dedicated to providing it.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Schultz

First Years Academy

Dear Representatives,

I would like to begin by saying overall, I appreciate the intention behind HF1915 with the goal to protect our most vulnerable children. With this being said, I do have some concerns.

My biggest concern is security. While I appreciate the intention to offer video recordings in daycare centers, I am worried about the possibility of the feed being hacked by child predators, ICE, or others who may use the footage for harm. This is especially concerning if the camera's are located in the same area where diaper changes may occur or in areas where a child may use a toilet or change clothing.

I noticed that Subd. 3(f) identifies the requirement for safeguards around who may have access to the recordings. I would request an additional clause that the recordings are not to be accessed by ICE or similar agencies outside of police use for suspected abuse and/or neglect claims.

I also would like to bring your attention to the following article from the ACLU from March 15 2021 titled "[Major Hack of Camera Company Offers Four Key Lessons on Surveillance](https://www.aclu.org/news/civil-liberties/major-hack-of-camera-company-offers-four-key-lessons-on-surveillance)": <https://www.aclu.org/news/civil-liberties/major-hack-of-camera-company-offers-four-key-lessons-on-surveillance>. A simple google search pulls up several articles surrounding a 2021 cyber attack where hackers were able to obtain security footage from multiple hospitals, jails, police departments, and other locations. From one source, Fiercehealthcare.com, "Even if a company takes strong security measures, a third party could make that organization vulnerable by sharing data and systems." (See: <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/tech/hackers-breach-hospital-surveillance-cameras-exposing-risks-device-security>)

Although daycare centers are not hospitals or jails, as a mother, it deeply concerns me that these systems - which tend to be highly secured, were able to be infiltrated.

My second concern is the cost and invasiveness for private, in-home, childcare providers. I am well aware of the limited amount of in-home providers with openings for infants and toddlers. I worry that if this were to pass, and in-home providers were required to install cameras, we would see a decrease in the number of licensed providers due to the invasiveness this measure would be for their personal life and family outside of their business hours.

As a mother of three girls, I have specifically chosen providers who do not record or have internal surveillance due to the risk of third party hacking and desire for privacy with diaper and clothing changes. My children are old enough that we do not currently use daycare services, however, I would prefer to have the choice whether my children are being recorded.

I would like to share one final personal story. When my oldest was around age 6 or 7, we were at Costco enjoying some affordable hotdogs and pizza's. While my daughter was taking a bit of her hotdog, and older male took a photo of her and quickly left the store. We reported this to security. They were able to pull the footage and share it with the police. The police informed us that there is nothing they can do due to the individual's phone being private property. To this day, I have no clue what he used that photo for or whether my daughter's photo is being used inappropriately on the dark web. I share this story to demonstrate that while we may think security measures work to our favor, there are limits to what protections exist should streams be hacked and footage be obtained and/or sold to a third party.

Finally, I do ask that private, in-home daycares are exempt from this requirement, while still offering the option to apply for funds to install cameras if that is preferred. Parent choice needs to be considered for those of us who are concerned about data breaches and inappropriate use of video. I also request more time is spent including measures that would require secured feeds, specifications around wifi vs. wired camera's, etc., in order to protect the privacy of our children and minimize the risk of hacking into systems.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Shannon Wohlman MA LMFT, LSW
13116 Pine Ridge Rd
Burnsville, MN 55337
218-340-4896

April 7, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express our organization's concern with and opposition to any requirement for video cameras in licensed child care centers. We understand the goals of such a requirement; Especially for Children was founded in 1976, and children's safety has always been, and will always be, our top priority. However, we feel strongly that this requirement would have a detrimental effect on our field, which already faces serious staffing challenges and financial uncertainty.

First, the cost of purchasing, installing, hosting feed, and repairing/replacing video equipment is immense. The initial purchase of equipment and installation would cost many thousands of dollars (at least \$2000 per camera, plus monthly or annual hosting fees) at every center at a time when it is more important than ever to commit our resources to teacher pay and quality programming. In addition, most early childhood centers do not have dedicated technology professionals on staff. It would fall on current administrative or programming staff to research cameras, plan for and oversee installation, monitor the cameras and feeds, and deal with inevitable technology issues when they arise. Over the past decade, many providers have introduced electronic devices such as iPads in our classrooms for the purpose of family communication and, while it has its benefits, the time spent managing technology in early childhood has gone up significantly. We are constantly needing to assess the benefits versus costs, because the real priority, and where the majority of our time should be spent, is with the children in our care--ensuring that they are learning, growing, and thriving in our environments. Management of video cameras would take more precious time and resources away from those priorities.

Cost is a major factor in our opposition to this bill, but it is not the only one. We are very concerned with privacy issues, both for teaching staff and children. We have an open door policy and invite families to come into our classrooms at any time. They are places where all staff are held to high safety standards, and staff should expect and be prepared for managers, administrative leaders, and parents, to walk into the room at any moment. However, keeping staff on constant video surveillance is something different altogether. It does not support notions of trust and respect, which are vital to our relationships. Furthermore, being a teacher in an early childhood classroom means singing songs, making goofy faces, dancing, and acting in ways that are extremely beneficial for children's development, but that could make teachers feel self-conscious in front of other adults. We see a great risk in losing vital aspects of teacher behavior that are in fact necessary to support children's brain development, learning and growth, due to teachers' unease with being constantly observed.

We are also concerned with children's and family privacy. At this time, for example, if we have a biting situation, we do not share with the family of the child who was bitten the name of the child who bit. This is normal, if frustrating, toddler behavior, but it does families and our community no good to "expose" a biter and potentially stir up feelings of resentment among families. Allowing families the opportunity to view classroom video in instances like these strips away the privacy of other children and families in the classroom. It will lead to misinterpretation and unnecessary conflict that our already stretched managers need to handle.

Again, we have always put safety first and will continue to do so through staff training, strong communication with families, and constant assessment of our learning environments. We ask that you consider how important it is to build up early childhood teaching staff through better pay, effective training, and good management to promote safety; requiring them to be under constant surveillance, and the associated costs of doing so, do not achieve these goals.

Sincerely,
Angie Williams
President
Especially for Children | 9 Twin Cities Locations

Child

Development

Centers

5223

West 73rd

Edina

Minnesota

55439

952 ▼ 835 ▼ 6055

www.EspeciallyforChildren.com



Colie Colburn

From: Ashton Frank <frank.ashton14@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 6, 2025 9:21 PM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: Please Support HF1915 for Childcare Transparency and Accountability

Dear Colie Colburn,

My name is Ashton Frank. I am a mother of a 6 month old baby who was physically abused February 12th, 2025 at a daycare facility when he was only 4.5 months old in Eagan, MN. He came home from daycare with bruises on his arms, shoulders, head, and palm of his hand. X-rays and a CT scan showed that he had a fractured skull, wrist and rib. All injuries were consistent with intentional abuse. Due to the fact there were no cameras in the facility, we will never catch my son's abuser.

I have three young children and I'm scared to send them to daycare. I am writing to urge you to include HF1915 in its entirety in the Children and Families Omnibus bill. This legislation is a crucial step for keeping our kids safe.

Please support this bill and prioritize the safety and well-being of Minnesota's children.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ashton Frank

Eagan, MN

608-406-0783

Colie Colburn

From: Colie Colburn
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 4:37 PM
To: Ashton Frank
Subject: Re: Please Support HF1915 for Childcare Transparency and Accountability

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

received. I will share with the committee

thanks!

Colie Colburn

Cell: 651-815-3146

From: Ashton Frank <frank.ashton14@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 6, 2025 9:20 PM
To: Colie Colburn <colie.colburn@house.mn.gov>
Subject: Please Support HF1915 for Childcare Transparency and Accountability

Dear Colie Colburn,

My name is Ashton Frank. I am a mother of a 6 month old baby who was physically abused February 12th, 2025 at a daycare facility when he was only 4.5 months old in Eagan, MN. He came home from daycare with bruises on his arms, shoulders, head, and palm of his hand. X-rays and a CT scan showed that he had a fractured skull, wrist and rib. All injuries were consistent with intentional abuse. Due to the fact there were no cameras in the facility, we will never catch my son's abuser.

I have three young children and I'm scared to send them to daycare. I am writing to urge you to include HF1915 in its entirety in the Children and Families Omnibus bill. This legislation is a crucial step for keeping our kids safe.

Please support this bill and prioritize the safety and well-being of Minnesota's children.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ashton Frank

Eagan, MN

608-406-0783

Colie Colburn

From: Janice DeGonda <janiceracheld@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 6, 2025 9:39 PM
To: Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn; Lauren Hayward; Colie Colburn; Natalie Zeleznikar; Samantha Sencer-Mura; Maria Perez-Vega; Bjorn Olson; Danny Nadeau; Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger; Nathan Coulter; Pam Altendorf; Joe McDonald; Kim Hicks; Nathan Nelson; Nolan West; Jessica Hanson
Subject: HF1915
Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi,

My name is Janice DeGonda. My daughter was abused at Small World Learning Center last July. She was only 5 months old. She began coming home with bruises, abrasions and scratches after starting a month at this daycare. Every time we asked on those marks, we were given likely excuses that seemed plausible at the time. We even had a phone conversation with the director last June about our concerns. After that conversation, those marks suddenly stopped until July. She had bruises covering her stomach, legs, groin and butt. This is what lead us to going to the hospital and what started this investigation. We found out that our daughter was seen on camera along with two other babies being abused by both women who ran the infant immobile room. Not only that, but this daycare only kept video footage for only one week which is highly unacceptable. Then come to find out during this investigation there are over a dozen families involved. But only 5 of us with charges due to the daycare not having footage. One of the abusers entered a guilty plea two weeks ago. The detective and the prosecutor stated that without this week of footage of my child being abused, these women would not have gotten charges. Daycares need to keep footage for much longer to prevent things like this from happening. I am certain that if this daycare had, all the families involved in this case would be getting justice for their children and they would finally get their questions answered. We need to protect our child. They are our most precious gift and our future. This is the start of doing so. Please, HF1915 needs to be included in the omnibus children and families bill. Please help us protect children everywhere. No family should have to go through what mine has and is still going through.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

- Janice DeGonda

Colie Colburn

From: Lane Merchant <lanemerchant92@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 6, 2025 9:51 PM
To: Nolan West; Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn; Jessica Hanson; Nathan Nelson; Kim Hicks; Joe McDonald; Pam Altendorf; Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger; Danny Nadeau; Maria Perez-Vega; Bjorn Olson; Samantha Sencer-Mura; Natalie Zeleznikar; Colie Colburn; Lauren Hayward
Subject: Hf1915 omnibus children and families bill

Hello!

My name is Lanie and I have a 1 and half year old son that goes to daycare. I'm also friends with Janice Degonda whose daughter was involved in the Small World Learning Center abuse. I believe this bill needs to pass because my son is too in daycare, as a first time mom I want to believe daycare people have my child's best interest at heart but as Janice learned this is not the case. There are bad people out there hurting small innocent helpless children. We need to hold daycare centers responsible and keeping footage for longer would help give parents more peace of mind in worst case scenarios to help hold criminals accountable.

This is not putting too much on the daycare, they already have the cameras. We need to pass

Hf1915 omnibus children and families bill

Thank you for your time.
Please please protect our children.

Lanie trout

Colie Colburn

From: Marissa Pederson Blaeser <marissapederson04@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 12:09 PM
To: Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn; Nolan West; Jessica Hanson; Nathan Nelson; Kim Hicks; Joe McDonald; Pam Altendorf; Nathan Coulter; Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger; Danny Nadeau; Bjorn Olson; Maria Perez-Vega; Samantha Sencer-Mura; Natalie Zeleznikar; Colie Colburn; Lauren Hayward
Subject: HF1915 MUST be in the Children and Families Omnibus bill

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
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Dear Chair Kotyza-Witthuhn and Chair West,

For the safety of babies and toddlers in daycare centers, please include HF1915 in its entirety in the Children and Families omnibus bill. Families are counting on you to make the right decision. Abuse in day care centers is currently left relatively unchecked, and unfortunately it is not uncommon. A violent offender from Blaine is only getting a 60-day jail sentence for absolutely heinous crimes. If this bill becomes law, violent criminals who abuse children at day care centers will have a better chance at justice.

Please do what is right for the littlest Minnesotans and include HF1915 in the Children and Families Omnibus bill.

Marissa Pederson Blaeser
New Brighton, MN

From: Pete <pete@clio1.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 1:45 PM
To: Colie Colburn
Subject: HF 1915 - Sustaining Child Care Center Video Security

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Representative Colburn,

First, I thank you for your service to your district and the state.

In these days of hyper partisanship, ideology overwhelms equanimity - I appreciate all who strive to serve with open and high minded purpose.

I appeal to your sense of wisdom as I write today to sustain HF 1915.

I trust you are familiar with HF 1915 and its active measures to require video monitoring & 60-day retention, adding appropriate controls and data retrieval methods for Licensed Childcare facilities. I expect you are also familiar with the experience of Rep. Nolan West's family concerning the abuse of his daughter.

Such terrible experiences may elicit an emotional response. That is certainly true of all I know who have heard Nolan's story or any number of others involving the abuse of young children. It can be tough to step back enough to turn such responses into good legislation.

In this case - I believe that this legislation was wisely crafted and will have the desired effect, discouraging such conduct and providing the evidentiary tool to discover and prosecute child abuse when it happens.

I add my sustaining voice to it - but give context it in reference to some professional expertise.

Though not explicitly a security or surveillance professional, I have overseen many projects involving high end corporate surveillance systems internationally. I have also installed and operated smaller professional and consumer systems for a business in Delano and other locations.

With this background I share these sustaining points in reference to potential arguments.

1. Small professional and better consumer grade video recording systems are now prolifically available. The cost of such systems, once quite high, are now much cheaper, allowing for simpler cabling and wireless options for tougher placements. The costs may only be a few thousand dollars even for a sizable greenfield installation. In building with CAT 5e+ cabling available it may be considerably cheaper.
2. Video Storage capacity is now very cheap. Even redundant systems sustaining many 720p+ cameras can likely add 60 days of recording for at most 1000 dollars even on highly redundant systems. Options may be available which are much cheaper than that. As many locations already have some video recording in place, most will have a retention capacity that may be expandable with a mere policy change to comply with the requirement. Camera costs at the low threshold required in this file are quite inexpensive.
3. The security of the data gathered data and the methods for appropriate review are wisely considered in HF 1915. I will only remark that most prosumer systems already have multifactor authentication and a variety of local and cloud storage and data protection capabilities. It is best to allow Child Care providers the flexibility to choose systems that comply with these provisions. My read is that this legislation is broadly flexible, giving providers many choices in how they can quickly comply with its requirements.

I sustain the other facets of the bill but do not consider myself an expert in the non-technical arenas.

I thank you for reading and commend you for your good-will in doing so.

Your obedient servant,
-Peter Heule (763.501.6989)

Nolan West's Family Experience for reference:

https://www.fox9.com/news/blaine-daycare-teacher-abusing-infants-guilty-plea.amp?fbclid=IwY2xjawJg-XhleHRuA2F1bQlxMAABHmL8BzofUIRoTjK8ulOC3QI92JKbqX3kmQmiCtDjLEFd48_5abqQPsn9hy9_aem_-FzthPvMFsWJTtwXCZdUnog