



Children's Village
Child Care Center Est. 1987



Testimony regarding HB 6439

Submitted By:
Terri Masters

Good afternoon Sen. Oster, Rep. Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Terri Masters, and I live in Wolcott.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today on the Governor's proposed budget. Specifically I would like to testify about a small part of the DCF budget. I own and operate a childcare center licensed for 93 children in Wolcott ages 6 weeks to 12 years old. I started this center in 1987. In order to help place children with foster parents, DCF has a program that pays child care providers if those foster parents need care for the children. Usually this is just a bridge until the foster parents apply for and are granted a Care4Kids certificate. Sometimes if the foster parents aren't eligible for Care4Kids then DCF will pay for care for a longer period. The problem is that DCF can't seem to pay providers in a timely manner. Child care providers working with CERCLE and the Early Childhood Alliance have been trying to resolve this problem for 2 years.

We are owed \$4715 for 4 children in region 5. I have been waiting since 2019 and 2020 invoices to be paid. I have resubmitted at least twice for every child with case numbers, child identification, social worker as requested by DCF.

It is a financial burden to accept DCF children without the ability to be paid for their care. I have wrap around agreements that are not being honored by DCF.

The Care4Kids program has been efficient and timely in their payments to our center. I trust that they would be able to handle the payment processing as evidenced by my past years with Care4Kids.

Thank you for considering this issue.

Terri Masters 3/3/21