

[Your Name]

[Address]

[City], Iowa [Zip code]

[Insert date]

The Honorable [insert legislators name]

[1007 E. Grand Ave.]

[Des Moines, Iowa 50319]

Dear Senator/Representative [insert last name]:

My name is [insert your name] and I reside at [insert your address] in [insert your city], Iowa.

Childcare is the most expensive item in the typical Iowa family's budget, with childcare-related costs averaging \$1,035 per month. That's 40 percent higher than most people's rent or mortgage.

For most parents and guardians in our state, accessing quality affordable care for their children can be a challenge, and one that has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to an economic recovery study conducted by United Ways of Iowa, nearly 10 percent of Iowans report challenges with childcare since the start of the pandemic last March – preventing them working and supporting their local economies in ways they would have otherwise.

The state's Child Care Assistance program is one way to help stabilize families. Unfortunately, too many deserving families are currently unable to access this program due to income limits. Currently, an Iowa family of four can earn no more than \$39,000 per year to qualify for childcare benefits. This same family could spend more than \$11,000 on childcare costs. This imbalance makes financial stability impossible.

I encourage you to support [HF 302/SF 283](#), a great way to smooth the childcare "cliff effect" by establishing a graduated eligibility phase-out for Child Care Assistance. I also ask for your help in addressing the income limits to participating in this program.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if you plan to support and will vote to pass [HF302/SF283](#). My email is [\[insert email address\]](#) if that provides a quicker and easier way for you to connect.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Sincerely,

[Insert your printed name below your signature]