

July 31st, 2013

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Economic Impact Committee:

My name is Bill Bauman and I am the Executive Director/CEO of the Missouri Valley Family YMCA in Bismarck. I also serve as Chair of the North Dakota Alliance of YMCAs, which includes the YMCA of Cass & Clay Counties in Fargo, the Grand Forks YMCA Family Center, the James River Family YMCA in Jamestown, and the YMCA of Minot North Dakota. On behalf of the Alliance, I appreciate the opportunity to share brief testimony with you today, and the Y stands committed to assist the committee in your important work of identifying and addressing the current and future needs for quality childcare in our state. We believe this issue is of critical importance in developing and nurturing the potential of children in our state, as well as supporting and strengthening hard-working families.

Collectively, the Ys are the largest provider of child care and after school programs in North Dakota, with 4 of our 5 Ys providing care. In Bismarck, we have been providing CC services for almost 40 years. We serve over 10,000 (unduplicated) children in infant, toddler and school-age child care, after school care, and day and resident camp. In CC services alone we serve 7000 youth annually. While we are proud to provide quality care to that many children, we are faced with challenges in our current capacity, we have 300 children are on waiting list in Bismarck alone. Statewide, the other Ys have similar numbers on waiting lists for their child care programs. According to the North Dakota Childcare Resource & Referral Agency, statewide, there is an large unmet need impacting children and families anxiously sitting on waiting lists. We are only meeting 30-40% of the CC need, locally, in Morton and Burleigh Counties. We want to increase our capacity and open new sites, but construction and operating costs, can quickly close the doors on new CC construction ideas. We have even been creative in exploring partnerships with underutilized buildings such as Churches to help us grow our capacity and open new sites. For example, our Bismarck Y is going into a partnership with the First Baptist Church here in Bismarck in the next few weeks that will

provide an additional 52 child care spots. The church provides the space, receives a lease fee and the Y employs staff, operates and provides the care. This is the second of this type of creative partnership to use an underutilized space to meet community need. If we could incentivize these types of partnership efforts through policy change, the communities and families will win. This is the type of creative solutions the committee is looking for.) We have also been in discussion with local major corporations to partner where we operate/they provide the space or facility.

This unmet need is not just being seen in oil country, where they are hardest hit, but across the state. Employers need quality CC to recruit new families into our communities for current business and also the growing impact from the western oil development.

Clearly, this committee has an appreciation for the importance of childcare but I wanted to share with you some additional thoughts as you study this issue during the interim. We believe that all kids deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. Through the Y, today millions of youth nationwide are cultivating the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behaviors, better health and educational achievements. If we can support families by providing their children affordable, quality childcare, we are assisting hard working parents to continue working, to be self-sufficient, and break the cycle of poverty they may be experiencing. Evidence shows that children in quality early child education settings, do better in school, and have higher high school graduation rates, so this is an investment in our state's future as well as their own.

The Alliance of North Dakota YMCAs is strongly in support of strengthening the child care infrastructure in our state. Of primary importance are four issues:

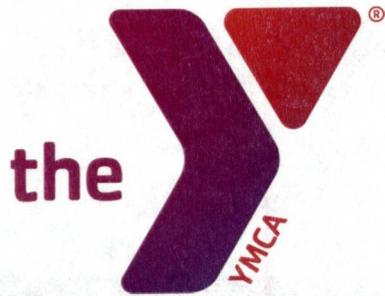
1. Provide expansion opportunities for current providers;
2. Provide start-up funds for new facilities for current and new providers;
3. Increase the investment in staff trainings which go hand-in-hand with improving the quality of care; and

4. Continue assistance to those in financial need. Even with vouchers and our resources the Y must raise hundreds of thousands of dollars each year -to provide financial aid to families to offset childcare costs.

Together through public and private partnerships, we can do a better job of providing a quality start in their lives of our young people through quality child care programs, where kids can learn and thrive in a safe environment with caring adults.

As YMCAs we know the issues, we have ideas for solutions and we want to be a part of the solutions. We are ready to provide the committee with any help we can. If , for example, the committee determines the best solution would involve more training for workers, we would be happy to help with the training, provide mentoring situations, allow new daycare operations to observe how we operate, etc.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments and thank you for your Committee's attention to this important topic. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

BUILDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

ALLIANCE OF NORTH DAKOTA YMCAs

The Y is the state's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Every day, we work in over three hundred North Dakota communities with thousands of individuals to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and



**NORTH DAKOTA STATE ALLIANCE of YMCAs
Grand Forks YMCA • James River Family YMCA • Missouri Valley Family YMCA • YMCA of Cass and Clay County • YMCA of Minot**

OUR CAUSE IS FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We believe all kids deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. In North Dakota, your Ys provide over \$2,251,302 in direct scholarships for youth, teen and family programs across the state.

40.7%

Of our members and program participants are under 18 years of age.

\$2,251,302

In direct financial assistance is provided annually to enable individuals, children and families to participate in programs that enhance their health and well-being.



JR started attending Camp Cormorant at age 9. This was only made possible through a scholarship from the Y's Partner of Youth. Even though JR had some struggles at home and school, he gained confidence and many other skills at camp. In 2012, JR lost close to 30 pounds and started devoting his life to basketball. That summer he also became a Counselor in Training. Camp provides many kids with much more than a just fun week of camp; it builds confidence and the life skills needed to be successful.

-Fargo

Significant North Dakota Collaborations:

- American Red Cross
- AmeriCorps
- Area Churches
- Boys and Girls Club
- Community Chambers of Commerce
- City Governments
- Colleges and Universities
- Department of Corrections
- Dakota Boys Ranch
- Dakota Medical Foundation
- Eastern Seals
- Foster Families
- Game, Fish and Parks
- Healthy North Dakota
- Home School Groups
- Local Hospitals
- Lutheran Social Services
- Military Families
- Ministerial Association
- Public and Private Schools
- United Way

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OUR CAUSE IS FOR HEALTHY LIVING

We are committed to helping people live longer, healthier lives. With a mission centered on life balance, we bring families closer together, encourage good health and foster connections through wellness, sports, fun and shared interests.

96,012

Men, women and children are active and engaged members and program participants at the 8 Y facilities serving individuals in over 300 communities in North Dakota.

39,097

Children are actively engaged in Y programs that promote a sense of family and youth development.



My husband, Trent, works out regularly at the Y. He has been an active member since we moved to Minot many years ago. He uses the facility in the evenings and also comes with co-workers during the week days. I am excited to send both of my girls to the Y KinderCamp program this summer because I have heard such marvelous things about it. We are very much a 'Y' family. The Y has given us a place to feel at home because of the friends we have made at the Y.

-Minot

Harriett, 83 years young shared that in 1988, she joined the Y after being in the exercise program at Jamestown Hospital. The main reason that she is committed to regular attendance is because she loves taking baths at home and wanted to be able to get in and out of the bathtub safely. She has attended many wellness classes with great instructors; the Y staff also taught her how to use the strength equipment. She said, "The friendships one makes at the Y last forever."

- Jamestown

OUR CAUSE IS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We believe in giving back and providing support to our neighbors. For more than 120 years, Ys in North Dakota have been developing skills and emotional well-being through education and training, welcoming and connecting diverse demographic populations, and preventing chronic disease and building healthier communities through collaborations with policymakers like you.

13.3%

Of operating revenue comes from direct contributions, from individuals, United Way, grants and bequests used for enriching activities including youth sports, camping, health and well-being programs and dozens of initiatives designed to keep kids, teens and families safe, engaged and encouraged to discover who they are.

2,380

Volunteers who support the Y's mission to strengthen the foundations of community.



One day, a man came into the Y to ask about a bill. He said it was his niece's bill and that he had come because his niece did not speak English. She was a single mother that had recently moved to Fargo and was working at a factory while trying to learn English. The man shared how grateful the family was for the School Age Program because the Y was helping his great-niece complete her homework and work on improving her English skills. He also mentioned how his great-niece, who was learning the language through the Y, was teaching her mom English too. Since the scholarship was made available to this family, the program was not only assisting the child, but also the entire family.

-Fargo

Across North Dakota, the Y is here to work with you to improve the mind, body and spirit of the people we serve. Let us know how we can help you strengthen our community. Together we can provide people with hope, opportunity and community.

For more information about the Y, go to www.ymca.net.

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