

**March 6, 2025**

**TESTIMONY OF NICOLE RIDDLE**

**Opponent – Senate Bill 256**

**To: Senate Government Efficiency Committee**

**Chairperson Erickson, Members of the Committee,**

My name is Nicole Riddle and I am a protection specialist with the Department for Children and Families. I am strongly opposed to SB 255- Back to Work act. I have been working with the agency for 5 years and have worked from home the entirety of the time. I have learned to grow in my agency and expand my knowledge within my time working from home. I average screening 15-20 reports a day. If I were to be sent back to the office my work would be greatly impacted as I would be working in an environment that is not productive. As a screener we need a quiet space which I would not receive in office. The burnout rate is extremely high in my department but by allowing us to work from home the rate has gone down and we are able to work on self-care by allowing us to be in a comfortable and safe space. The office is also a 30 min to 1 hour drive for my coworkers and I. This could cause concern during the winter months as it would not be safe to get to work and could interfere with the reports not getting screened. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote no on this bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nicole Riddle

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