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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
CARE AND DEVELOPMENT HEARING

NOVEMBER 16, 2012

REPORTED BY: Shanna T. May, CCR #1774
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Post Office Box 2632
Jackson, Mississippi 39207
1-800-245-3376

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1 DR. DENT: I need to make sure that before
2 we start, that everybody that is here has signed in,
3 in the back on the sign-in sheet, and that if there
4 is anybody that wanted to speak, to indicate that on
5 the sign-in sheets.

6 My name is Jill Dent, I am with the
7 Mississippi Department of Human Services, the
8 Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. I
9 want to make an opening statement before we get
10 started with the hearing.

11 In 2007, there was an audit conducted by
12 former State Auditor Phil Bryant, funded by Jill
13 Barksdale. The recommendation of the study was to
14 implement an electronic system to increase the
15 integrity, accountability and efficiency of the
16 Early Childhood Payment Program. The agency will
17 accomplish that through this movement toward the
18 Mississippi eChildcare Program.

19 Mississippi eChildcare will also help us
20 substantially in the process of collecting data
21 about the impact of the program. The state is
22 crucial, securing the grants so that we know -- we
23 better know access and how to serve the needs of
24 parents, childcare providers and children cross our
25 state. We look forward to improving all processes

1 and quality of services offered by the Department of
2 Human Services. It is our hope that through this
3 process, stronger working relationships and
4 excellent customer service will result.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. My name is
6 Joyce Williams, and I'll be the ^^ for today's
7 hearing. I will proceed through the sign-in sheet
8 to call the names of those who have signed up to
9 speak.

10 At that point, we'll ask that you come
11 down to the microphone here in the front, and we
12 have Mr. Brian Grove here who will be our
13 timekeeper. He has a timer. When that timer
14 reaches the five-minute mark, there will be an alarm
15 that will sound.

16 At that time, we will ask that you -- and
17 that's the sound that will occur at the end of that
18 five-minute mark. At that time, we will ask you to
19 end your comments. In the interest of order, we
20 want to make sure that we give everyone equal amount
21 of time, being five minutes.

22 When you come to the microphone, we would
23 ask that you begin by stating your name clearly, so
24 that the transcriber can take that down. Once -- of
25 course, today we -- as in the past, we will take all

1 comments and questions.

2 DHS -- once we get the transcript from the
3 transcriber, we'll go through the transcript with a
4 committee, look at those concerns that you've
5 brought to us today, as well as the questions, and
6 we'll respond accordingly on the website.

7 At this time, I'm going to ask that
8 everyone make sure that your cell phone and all your
9 electronic devices are on silent or turned off. We
10 ask that this hearing be orderly and that you all
11 abide by the rules that have been set for this
12 hearing. If that does not occur, we will have to
13 ask those persons to step out.

14 At this time, I will begin with going
15 through the sheet. First up, we have Ms. Jane
16 Boykin.

17 JANE BOYKIN: I'm Jane Boykin with the
18 (unintelligible), and I want to start by saying --

19 COURT REPORTER: Hold on, hold on.

20 (Off the record.)

21 JANE BOYKIN: Again, I'm Jane Boykin with
22 (unintelligible) Children and Family.

23 And I want to begin by saying that an
24 Economic Impact Statement is like a math problem.
25 You have certain elements you have to include, and

1 then you have to assign a dollar value to those.
2 You get a subtotal, and at the end of it, you should
3 have a total cost and loss benefit to one party or
4 the other.

5 And we're here to discuss the Economic
6 Impact Statement, and I raise an objection to what
7 is an evident lack of good faith in responding to
8 those statutory requirements with incomplete or
9 inaccurate information worded to give DECCD an
10 unfair advantage in this process. And five minutes
11 won't list all the things, so I picked examples of
12 those things that color the content of the entire
13 document.

14 It is not good faith to first claim the
15 Mississippi eChildcare System is not connected to
16 any other system and then later in the document,
17 justify the selection of the Xerox finger scanning
18 system by claiming the benefit of leveraging the EBT
19 system to the electronic childcare option. I do
20 believe it's good faith to claim the burdens and
21 requirements imposed on parents by the finger
22 scanning. And the new payment system provides the
23 benefit of parents who are involved in the
24 children's care when there is no related
25 parent/child interaction.

1 I don't believe it was good faith to
2 deliberately underestimate the costs to the agency
3 by not including readily available costs such as
4 services provided by staffing of the divisions of
5 agency, the central office, the agency staff located
6 in county offices throughout the state, the
7 divisions of staff sub-grantees and contractors.
8 When the county could have (unintelligible) of the
9 finger scanning system and payment system policies
10 result in little, if any, savings from granting the
11 payment program in-house.

12 I don't believe it's good faith to fail to
13 mention the costs statement of the government when
14 the childcare system that reduces welfare dependent
15 and supports economic development is weakened, not
16 destroyed, by the finger scanning system and payment
17 policies.

18 I don't believe it's good faith to totally
19 omit the economic costs to licensed childcare
20 persons and family childcare homes and limit the
21 cost to in-home providers to only those who are
22 installing the required landline. When calling
23 (unintelligible) because of the costs and the finger
24 scanning system and the reimbursement scales, for
25 example, those changes dictate the full extent of

1 the losses and costs to providers.

2 I don't believe it's good faith to claim
3 there is no administrative costs or any skills
4 required to perform administrative functions and
5 then contradict that claim in the requirements of
6 operating the finger scanning system. The program
7 payment policy and the documents found in the
8 appendix of the manual when the related federal
9 rules simply exempts these administrative costs from
10 the administrative care.

11 I don't believe it's good faith to claim
12 without the finger scanning system, the DECCD would
13 have to hire more people, travel state-wide, pick up
14 by hand, (unintelligible) sheets. And there is no
15 related federal policy, rule or guidance to do so,
16 which produce the result of more paper than that
17 agency can store and process.

18 I don't believe it's good faith to claim
19 elimination of false attendance claims submitted by
20 providers. We would save \$15 to \$18 million without
21 providing related documentation, particularly when
22 the ECCD issues payment registers to providers that
23 do not include all enrolled children eligible for
24 reimbursement and continues to list ineligible
25 children, some truly until they're old enough to

1 shave. And in fact, it's not good faith to submit
2 the Economic Impact Statement without documentation.

3 That -- and that it appears without bad
4 faith, we don't have much faith at all here. And
5 once again, we are using a white yard stick to come
6 in and measure childcare services in largely
7 minority home childcare businesses.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms. Boykin.

9 Next we have listed to speak -- and
10 forgive if I mispronounce this, I'm trying to read
11 the different handwriting -- we have Petra Kay.

12 And Ms. Kay, when you begin, could you
13 start by spelling your name for the record, please?

14 PETRA KAY: Okay. My name is Petra,
15 P-E-T-R-A, last name is Kay, K-A-Y. I'm executive
16 director for Northtown Child Development Center.

17 I have no more questions for DHS; I have
18 comments. We have developed the childcare
19 (unintelligible) plan. We have spent and will spend
20 millions of dollars which could go to the education
21 of children. I'm disappointed because in every step
22 of the way, we, as childcare providers and business
23 owners, have supported DHS. But we were lied to, we
24 were conned, we were sold for stupid, and I'm angry.

25 I have an education, so does every other

1 childcare provider. I am somebody. We have
2 instituted a -- instituted a work force for training
3 childcare providers and centers who have less
4 knowledge than the youngest member on my staff. We
5 have spent money -- our children's money, we took
6 them off the rolls. I am angry.

7 I have four children who just left because
8 the mother is in a mental institution and the
9 grandmother will not fingerprint and scan. I'm
10 disappointed. I had faith when you took this
11 office, I had faith you would make a difference.
12 I'm here to collaborate with you, I'm here to
13 collaborate with DHS. I have offered for training
14 over and over again, but DHS will do what it wants
15 to do.

16 Take us, take the people who know how to
17 run this business and cooperate with us. That's
18 what I'm asking you. But it will not happen because
19 we will spend the money on Xerox instead of our
20 low-income families and most important, on our
21 children who desperately need early childhood
22 education.

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Kay.

24 Next we have listed to speak, Ms.
25 Cassandra Welchlin.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Unintelligible).

2 MS. WILLIAMS: I apologize, you are
3 correct. Like I said, I'm trying to read the
4 handwriting.

5 Ms. Debbie Ellis, and then we'll have Ms.
6 Cassandra Welchlin next.

7 DEBBIE ELLIS: I'm Debbie Ellis of
8 Greenwood, I represent the Mississippi Delta
9 Licensed Providers.

10 I wish to register an objection to the
11 proposed eChildcare method of payment through the
12 biometric finger scanning machine and the contract
13 to be entered into with Xerox Corporation as a
14 requirement to become a CCPP approved provider.

15 The only other state to use the finger
16 scanning biometric method of payment first
17 introduced the system in their state to providers as
18 a state offered security device. Once uniformly
19 installed, it became a system to track a child's
20 action time and attendance for (unintelligible)
21 payments to providers for full-time slots, and it
22 helped to deny access to high quality programs when
23 over 800 childcare facilities withdrew from the
24 subsidy program.

25 DHS introduced the system in Mississippi

1 saying some providers may be committing fraud. It's
2 suspected but largely undocumented to my knowledge.
3 DHS finally admitted the system was being
4 implemented to save money by not paying for children
5 who are not actually in daycare on any particular
6 day.

7 I believe the post-truth of implementation
8 of this program will reveal payments to providers by
9 the hour and minute, like Louisiana, through the
10 tracking of time and attendance. A system component
11 designed by Xerox yet to be specifically outlined or
12 revealed in the concise Economic Impact Statement
13 provided online by DHS.

14 Childcare providers cannot survive in a
15 system that increases center administrative costs
16 and reduce payment for services. Childcare
17 providers receiving partial payment or anything
18 other than full-time reimbursement for full-time
19 slots cannot provide the services needed to prepare
20 low-income children for success in school and later
21 in life. The 90 percent of Mississippi's private
22 childcare industry that accepts (unintelligible)
23 certificates for payment in order to serve
24 low-income children only receive 51 percent of
25 market value for their services already.

1 Reduced fees will more than likely be
2 passed on to private pay citizens at tuition
3 heights, while also denying access to children of
4 working parents in low-wage jobs. Programs,
5 primarily black-owned and operated childcare
6 facilities with large numbers of certificates, will
7 be failed as a business and failed as an early
8 learning program.

9 It is the intent of congress for this
10 program follow the private market and empower
11 low-income parents and their children to move from
12 welfare to self-dependency. It has never been the
13 intent of congress to empower academia and
14 (unintelligible) members who are suggesting that
15 making these policies, while also receiving award of
16 quality funding for programs they, themselves,
17 administrate.

18 The Xerox eChildcare finger scan method of
19 payment selected will benefit the MDHS Division of
20 Early Childhood Care and Development and fail
21 state-sponsored quality programs during periods of
22 budget cuts while placing hardship on private
23 citizens and small businesses.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Ms. Welchlin.

25 CASSANDRA WELCHLIN: Good afternoon. I'm

1 Cassandra Welchlin with Mississippi Low-Income
2 Childcare Initiative, representing childcare
3 providers across the state, along with working
4 families.

5 We, too, are here to object to this
6 proposed policy. It is a mispriority of funds that
7 need to go to 8,000 children that are on the waiting
8 list. We know that amount of kids, and there may be
9 even more. And the amount of money that the
10 Department of Human Services is paying Xerox is --
11 seems to me immoral and unethical that, and that
12 funds -- those funds need to be returned to those
13 children, those working families, so those families
14 can go to work and have a safe place for their
15 children to be.

16 The Economic Impact Statement was not
17 clear, and it seems to me that the Economic Impact
18 Statement was false and lacked a lot of information,
19 and it did not take into account the costs that
20 the -- that these centers will incur.

21 Currently, we know we've got calls all
22 across the state, that daycare centers will not be
23 taking certificates if this policy is implemented.
24 We also know that families will be displaced as a
25 result of that, if centers do not take certificates

1 anymore.

2 This is a harm, and we're asking the
3 Department of Human Services to do no harm to these
4 children.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. WILLIAMS: All right. Thank you.

7 Next, we'll have Ms. Deloris Suel.

8 DELORIS SUEL: Good evening. Deloris
9 Suel, and that's D-E-L-O-R-I-S, S-U-E-L.

10 I'm here today to represent poor children
11 in the State of Mississippi. I have several
12 concerns, and the first one deals with the
13 (unintelligible) threshold. We're still using the
14 policy rates from 2004, and it is now 2012. So we
15 need to continue to raise concerns about things that
16 we see, that may negatively impact the care that we
17 provide to our children.

18 If we cannot be paid a fair market rate,
19 then you can say we don't provide the care. Because
20 many times, we cannot buy the materials that we need
21 for our children, and then sometimes we're forced
22 into programs that we do not agree with.

23 It was stated that one of the reasons for
24 the E-Ledger of childcare was to make parents more
25 responsible. I would like to know what was used to

1 determine that our parents aren't responsible. Just
2 because you're poor doesn't mean that you don't care
3 and that you're not responsible for your children.
4 They are many parents that are young, and we do work
5 with them to help them to understand the processes
6 that they like.

7 So I would not say to any mother that she
8 needs DHS to require her to be responsible for her
9 children. And the way to do that is by putting her
10 finger on the button every day; I object to that.

11 The Economic Impact Statement, and
12 everybody continues to talk about that, was not
13 clear. Any -- it said -- well, it was stated that
14 there would be like \$1.6 million that was -- that
15 was being used a year. If you look at the contract
16 with DHS and Xerox, you will see more funds in there
17 that they're getting. For instance, if you say in
18 the contract that you will be assessed fees and so
19 forth, what are those fees? What are the costs of
20 those fees? What kind of fees?

21 It also states that they will provide
22 six feet of electrical wire. Beyond that six feet,
23 how much is it going to cost me? If I have more
24 than 50 children, what is it going to cost me? Am I
25 going to buy another computer, am I going to have to

1 buy another modem? I may have to put in another
2 room. Will I have to get an additional computer?
3 So there is so many hidden costs.

4 I actually looked at the study from the
5 State of Texas and other states that have some
6 concerns after they had also gone into this program.
7 They had to hire staff, they looked at the fact that
8 Xerox had to hire staff. I think one of the centers
9 said it had taken them at least five hours a day to
10 ensure that they get the correct data, that they
11 make sure that their parents are scanning. Then the
12 parents still are getting away with not scanning.

13 We have no information to say, other than
14 if a parent doesn't scan, they're going to become --
15 they're going to be terminated. If a parent doesn't
16 scan, they should not be terminated. You should
17 still ensure, if we have provided their services,
18 that we are paid. There is not assurances, other
19 than "if they don't do what they need to do, then
20 you will not get your money." So there is so many
21 assurances that are lacking in what's going on.

22 And I'm really concerned about the like of
23 inclusion. We're not just babysitters; we are
24 providers. And Dr. Dent did say earlier that she
25 was putting together an advisory committee, and I

1 really welcome that, but I would also ask the
2 legislature to put back in force the board to DHS.
3 It is something that's needed and it's something
4 that is required.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mrs. Suel.

6 Next, I have -- it looks like Eulonda
7 Garry. And Ms. Garry, would you also spell your
8 name when you come to the microphone?

9 EULONDA GARRY: E-U-L-O-N-D-A, G-A-R-R-Y.

10 I have a couple of questions, some of them
11 have been answered. But although I think that we've
12 been asking these questions, it is intended that I
13 won't get an answer.

14 Okay. I think there was some concerns
15 about fraud. And were these centers -- the centers
16 that were found fraudulent, were they prosecuted,
17 and where can we find the evidence that proves the
18 fraud that was found? We -- and there was, I think
19 in some paperwork, that there was some fraud that --
20 but the funny thing is, I was in a meeting and I did
21 ask, and I was told by Dr. Dent that that was not in
22 the paperwork, that she said that there was no
23 fraud.

24 Okay. Why -- when the providers that are
25 signed up for Allied, why were they not told that

1 they would have to be a part of the pilot program
2 before they signed up? I think this was something
3 that was forced on them, I think they should have
4 been aware of that before they signed that
5 paperwork.

6 How much money was sent -- spent on the
7 E-Ledger system? And for those providers that are
8 in the pilot program, what is the process to opt out
9 of that program and be placed back on E-Ledger? And
10 if that is possible -- I think in the paperwork that
11 we got, it said that they are able to opt out, and
12 if I they can opt out, what is the timeframe that it
13 will take to make that transition?

14 When will you allow us to run our
15 businesses? And a comment -- I think if this was a
16 proposal to do finger scanning at JA, or Jackson
17 Prep, we would not be here.

18 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms. Garry.

19 Any there any other persons that have come
20 in, that may have signed in and indicated that they
21 would like to speak?

22 Okay. Is there anyone else who would like
23 to be heard at this time?

24 SHIRLEY HAMPTON: My name is Shirley
25 Hampton, S-H-I-R-L-E-Y, H-A-M-P-T-O-N. I am one of

1 the pilot centers that is actually working
2 biometrically. And I am not talking anything that
3 I've heard; I talking about what I know.

4 This program is by far the biggest
5 headache of anything I've ever been in childcare.
6 Imagine the worst child in your program, and this
7 will not even begin to tell you the headaches and
8 the countless hours, just trying to make sure that
9 you're being paid for what you do. I mean, it is --
10 it's a constant, a constant.

11 And I'm not going to say it's not because
12 the parents will not scan. You just have to deal
13 with the everyday issues and the everyday problems
14 that -- you know, where they run in and they forgot.
15 So someone has to have that data there to be able to
16 catch that parent so that we can make sure they scan
17 in.

18 You've got your previous ins and your
19 previous outs. God forbid that mistake happen, and
20 then you've got that line behind -- so she's trying
21 to figure it out, get it done, get it set up. All
22 these parents behind you. Now they're complaining,
23 now they're upset. Now you've got to try to hold
24 them because they're signed out, they're ready to
25 go. Well, we've got to get the machine, you know,

1 back to going, because she hits something and
2 probably made an error.

3 You have no idea the kind of time it has
4 taking for us to get our job done. We are no longer
5 educators, which is the direction I thought we were
6 headed in. I mean, how can you be on the bottom of
7 education, now you're still sending more children
8 home and taking them out of licensed programs that
9 you have some control over?

10 When are we going to get the children on
11 the same page? We can't get them there with
12 grandmother that's just feeding them all day. Here
13 in these educational programs, which this money was
14 designed four years ago, latch these children --
15 there are so many indirect costs going to this
16 funding, that it doesn't even make any sense.

17 And in the days that I can remember, money
18 was all about program, it was not about corporate
19 greediness. It was about the program. If you was
20 not running a program, you were not going to get any
21 money. That was always canceled on administrative
22 costs and all of this. Now, it's just like we're
23 pleading for the -- for the children, while all of
24 the dollars are for this training program or to this
25 program or to this program or to this program or to

1 this or to that, and nothing is going to the
2 children that we should be committed to serve.

3 If it was going to get moved from the
4 bottom, biometric is not a time to do that. We're
5 not going to save money from biometrics. They're
6 going to save it but you're going to lose it.
7 Because if you do not put a person on that computer
8 all day to watch it, to catch that parent, you're
9 going to lose money. And then, you find out in the
10 contract that you may or may not be paid. Well,
11 we'll get paid now; I don't know what's going to
12 happen later on.

13 I am one of the organizations who have
14 opted out of the program as an allied agency, and I
15 have been granted. I mean, I haven't been given any
16 kind of flack or anything about not doing that, but
17 I have opted out. I would like to have -- if it do
18 come into being, I would at least like to have a
19 money (unintelligible) before it does.

20 But for you who do not know, for all of
21 these (unintelligible) because you do not know, you
22 don't think it's about anything, I would suggest
23 that you start calling your friends to let them
24 know. Your life is not going to be the same if you
25 want to get paid. If you don't want to get paid,

1 you're going to have to do, because it can slip and
2 then when your money hit the bank and you've
3 estimated that you're going to get about 7,000 and
4 you got 3,500, hey, that's mind-boggling, that's
5 mind-boggling. That's closing down your doors.

6 So what I'm saying, I would have a
7 problem, I don't care what system they came up with
8 that, because that means that it's more money that's
9 not serving children, which that money was designed
10 for.

11 LELA TAYLOR: Yes. Lela Taylor, L-E-L-A,
12 T-A-Y-O-R, Gigi's Christian Academy.

13 Ms. Shirley, yes, the program really will
14 save money because we've already decided, we will
15 not do that. We will not stress ourselves. Our
16 children are rated some of the times -- I guess the
17 greatest I've ever received when I was going through
18 the line in Kroger, and one of the students --
19 school children who accepted my check says "Oh, do
20 you work at that place? Oh, those children are
21 smart."

22 The bottom line is, can Johnny read? When
23 I was in public school, I saw a lot of paperwork
24 coming across. I retired in the profession in 1965.
25 When I first entered education, my quest every night

1 was "what can I do to get this concept over to this
2 child?" That was the only thing I had to worry
3 about. Education was a joy, it was a pleasure.

4 But when I see all of the regulations here
5 passed down -- and I thought -- when I lived in
6 California -- I lived around Berkley, I said "are
7 they high or what, smoking weed, looking out a
8 window?" The bottom line is to educate our
9 children.

10 And the monies that's coming into the
11 state is not used to educate our children. Why do
12 we even need money? We will never get off the
13 bottom if we keep passing the money up to the people
14 who are supposedly educated? Our children are the
15 ones that we should invest in. They are our future,
16 not Xerox. Our children are our future. And if we
17 are not going to put the money where it counts,
18 leave it wherever it is.

19 It's disgraceful that in our program, we
20 went from 50 slots to, I think, 14, when all of this
21 was implemented. So why do we need more money?
22 Leave the money where it is and just close the
23 schools down. It seems that that's where it's
24 coming to. Keep your money, we don't want your
25 money. We will not accept it, we will not be

1 stressed. We will still just educate our children.

2 WALTER YOUNG: My name is Walter Young.

3 And to DHS, to the Attorney General's
4 Office, you're hearing the foot soldiers, you're
5 hearing the people who are actually the ones with
6 hands-on training. There is a problem, we need to
7 work this problem out. Now, recently, I understand
8 that there was a report on people who were misusing
9 food stamps, abusing it. And my question is: Are
10 we going to start scanning people when they go to
11 the grocery store? Is this the next step?

12 And if we just -- just take a moment --
13 just take a moment. If there is fraud, does the
14 amount of money that we spend in trying to come back
15 for fraud in this business, does it justify spending
16 all this money? You know, if we had \$3 million
17 worth of the fraud and you spent \$12 million to
18 combat it, great. But if it's minimum, we can be
19 doing anything else with that money. We could be
20 using it to educate our kids.

21 And I think this is what the foot soldiers
22 are saying. Come on, you're the generals, you're
23 the people. Listen to the foot soldiers.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Is there anyone else

1 who would like to speak?

2 CORA ROGERS: Cora Rogers, assistant
3 director of Rogers' Childcare and Learning Center
4 and Lamar (phonetic) Education and (unintelligible)
5 Program.

6 I have been a childcare provider for 15
7 years. Maybe that has not been long enough, but
8 I've been a mother over 41 years. I am about ready
9 to get me an airplane ticket and go to Washington,
10 D.C. if necessary, and I believe I would have the
11 back of the childcare providers in the State of
12 Mississippi. We are ready to carry it just that
13 far.

14 Because stimulus money that was designed
15 to help poor children should not be taken and used
16 to get jobs for people in higher places or spend it
17 in other ways that it was not designed to be spent.
18 Put it back in childcare.

19 I was licensed for over 60 children.
20 Right now, I have about 15 that's under the
21 certificate program. You're telling me that it's
22 designed to take children off of the line and put
23 give them -- give more certificates to children.
24 Where are the certificates? Where is the stimulus
25 money going?

1 Thank you.

2 MS. WILLIAMS: All right. Thank you, Ms.
3 Rogers.

4 Is there anyone else?

5 JENNIE STURGIS: Good afternoon. My name
6 is Jennie Sturgis, that's J-E-N-N-I-E,
7 S-T-U-R-G-I-S.

8 We, childcare providers in the State of
9 Mississippi, are very concerned about the finger
10 scanning, and I think we're all hesitant to say it,
11 but what we feel and what we see is that this is
12 directed toward minority children and minority
13 providers. Big churches, other entities are not
14 having to do this, and it just seems that we are
15 being targeted. And I think it's a waste of money
16 when we could use that money to educate our
17 children. That's our goal, and I think that's what
18 we need to do.

19 And I just want that made known, because
20 no matter what we say, this money could be spent in
21 better situations, and that is educating our young
22 children.

23 VIOLA RAGS: Good afternoon. My name is
24 Viola Rags, I'm from the -- I'm the director of
25 Raggedy Ann Daycare.

1 My question is: For the last 11 months, I
2 have not received a certificate for working parents,
3 only TANF parents and not too many of those. So if
4 the money is there and it is not being used for
5 working parents and we're taking it and putting it
6 into a finger printing machine, something is wrong
7 with that picture.

8 And also, we have parents that would be at
9 work and someone else -- they'll give the children
10 to whoever is going to pick them up. We have
11 children that we pick up, parents don't bring them
12 to the center. How are we going to combat that?

13 How do we handle that when someone else
14 drops the children off or picks the children up and
15 when we go to the house and pick them up. A lot of
16 things have to be considered before you can put
17 these machines in. Is it a help or is it a hinder?

18 MS. WILLIAMS: All right. Is there anyone
19 else that would like to speak?

20 Okay. If not -- if there are no more
21 comments or questions or no one else would like to
22 be heard, at this time we will conclude the public
23 comment hearing.

24 Thank you all for coming. And as I stated
25 before, DHS will receive the transcript and with the

1 committee, go through those comments and questions
2 from today and will post accordingly to the website.

3 Thank you.

4 (Off the record.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

2 I, Shanna T. May, Court Reporter and
3 Notary Public, in and for the State of Mississippi,
4 hereby certify that the foregoing contains a true
5 and correct transcript, as taken by me in the
6 aforementioned matter at the time and place
7 heretofore stated, as taken by stenotype and later
8 reduced to typewritten form under my supervision by
9 means of computer-aided transcription.

10 I further certify that under the authority
11 vested in me by the State of Mississippi that the
12 witness was placed under oath by me to truthfully
13 answer all questions in the matter.

14 I further certify that I am not in the
15 employ of or related to any counsel or party in this
16 matter and have no interest, monetary or otherwise,
17 in the final outcome of this matter.

18 Witness my signature and seal this the
19 20th day of November, 2012.

20

21

22 SHANNA T. MAY, CCR #1774

23 My Commission Expires:
24 April 25, 2014

25

