

March 2, 2018

To whom it may concern:

I work full-time as a Commercial Banking, and rely heavily on my child care provider. The following outlines my concerns with regard to the impact of the proposed State regulations for child care facilities:

1. Cost

As new regulation is approved and put into practice child care facilities will be affected with increased cost. As a business the facility must pass these onto parents to maintain their margins or reduce their income. In an industry already known for low wage and small profit margins, the costs must be passed to the parents. The increase in cost for child care will drive parents to find alternative, non-licensed options. In an already depressed area, such as Grays Harbor, the limited options that we as parents have for child care today will continue to diminish and again leave parents with the need to find alternative care.

2. Excess documentation

With each additional regulation my provider will be required to provide evidence of maintaining this regulation, thus, more time with ancillary tasks and less time focused on the care of my children. In highly regulated industries, such as Banking, Child Care and the health care system, there becomes a tipping point when business must add FTE to implement and manage the regulation. This again points to the fact that these unnecessary regulations will cause unnecessary costs to the business and the parents.

3. Limited Options

With each new overreach of State regulation, a facility begins to make the decision if this is worth it. The 'it' is staying open and caring for our children. The providers that I have had the opportunity to know, do this because they love the children they care for, the parents that become part of their family and the difference that they make in the community. As a full-time employee who works outside of the home I rely on my child care provider to be a part of my village. During the work week, they care and raise my child. My child looks to them as the guiding force in their formative years, and for many, is the first glimpse into their education. When facilities are forced to close due to unnecessary regulation, you are displacing the children who have no voice or option.

4. Parents' Choice

The negative impact of the regulations and the unnecessary closure of many smaller facilities will limit my choice. As the parent, I was given the right to parent how I see fit and that includes selecting the best option for child care.

5. Education

The limited options and requirements for education are counterintuitive to the overall goal. We want our providers to be educated and safe. We also want them to drive their education and find programs and certifications that meet their needs. The facilities are not cookie-cutters and cannot be compared to; apple to apples. Child specific needs must be taken into account for educational requirements.

In closing, there is a dramatic difference between in-home providers and child care centers. To push for over-arching regulation you will quickly see in-home facilities close as they cannot meet the demands that these regulations will push into their laps. This will negatively affect the children of Washington State. Specifically, those already hit the hardest in depressed communities. We must do right by our children. Listen to the providers who have taken hours away from their families to show you that these regulations will not benefit their business or the children that they care for.

Thank you for your time.

Lindsay Paylor

Mother of two small children currently loved and cared for by a licensed in-home child care provider.

To whom it may concern:

A number of proposed WAC's will be detrimental to maintaining licensed facilities for childcare. The cumbersome proposed WAC's around infant and toddler care will only serve to further eliminate spots in licensed facilities. The extra unnecessary work will only serve as cause for facilities to eliminate infant care. I don't feel more regulations are needed to provide quality of care for infants.

Programs are losing their rights to create unique facilities and there seems to be no value in parent choice for variety of programs. It only seems to work at creating "cookie-cutter" programs based on the state's value system and goals. I've already seen a large increase in unlicensed care as parents are looking to find alternatives to recent changes happening in licensed child care.

Thank you,

Fawn Wilson