

Support Affordable, Quality Child Care in Families' Communities Vote YES on SB 1051

Currently, Home Owners' Associations can prohibit licensed in-home child care businesses from operating in the homes of the communities. We have a child care crisis in our state and this prohibition is one of many barriers that families encounter in accessing affordable, quality child care that meets the needs of families and their children. SB 1051 removes the ability of HOAs to prohibit child care businesses that are licensed and inspected by the state's Early Learning Division, Office of Child Care and Department of Human Services.

Licensed in-home child care, also known as Family Child Care, facilities provide care to families in their community and often times are able to provide care during evenings, weekends, or overnight when center-based care isn't available. Family child is also often able to provide inclusive care for children with special needs and giving them the more individualized attention they need. Giving the ability for homeowners in all communities to be able to provide this care is crucial for allowing parents to be part of the workforce and give their children access to dependable, consistent care that also provides for educational opportunities. Some studies show in-home care as more affordable than center based care.

Licensed child care is governed by state rules, regulations and statutes. In-home care is subject to ratios and limits on the number of children in their care. Many providers prefer to keep their ratios smaller than what the rules require. The rules require constant supervision and care and for some, there are even rules around square footage, both indoors and outdoors, per child in care. They are required to follow specific health / safety standards and are subject to inspections from the Early Learning Division's Office of Child Care, Department of Human Services and the Health Department. In-home care provides a quality setting preferred by many parents and is a valuable asset to our state and communities.

SB 1051 is one step of many we should be taking to reduce barriers to child care. Please vote YES.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tracy and Cheryl Lang, Happy Place Child Care

And these partners:

