



Utah Private Child Care Association

PO Box 341 · American Fork, UT 84003 · 801-360-0753 · upccainfo@gmail.com
Brian Zabriskie – Executive Director

Please support HB 277 Child Care Eligibility Amendments

The Utah Child Care Association is in complete support of Rep. Matthews HB 277.

First and foremost this bill would provide some additional temporary support for Utah's working families who have struggled financially during the pandemic. By allowing the Department of Workforce Services to increase the maximum income eligibility to the higher federal limit for the next two years, more families could receive help affording quality child care that is stable for their children.

Quality, stable care is not only important for young children's preparation for success in school. It also helps Utah's workforce to be both present and more productive on the job.

Utah is already receiving over \$100,000,000 additional child care dollars from the second federal stimulus bill. This money is intended to help shore up the child care industry so it will be there in full force as the economy recovers. It is also perfectly appropriate for some of the money to be used to help struggling families for a short period of time. If the bill passes and more families were able to receive help paying for child care for a couple of years, that could free up dollars for them to buy a more reliable car, or get a new washing machine to replace the one that keeps acting up. They could use the extra dollars to reduce indebtedness and be on a stronger financial footing as the rest of the economy recovers.

We understand the concerns that this is one time money but it is a lot of one time money that can do a lot of good for families who need it for a little while.

In addition, the bill would move the state from paying for child care based on attendance to paying based on enrollment. That is the same way private paying parents pay for child care. Because the state sets licensed capacities and student to teacher ratios, providers do not have the flexibility to overenroll their programs to account for student absences. When you sign a contract for child care you purchase one of the limited slots providers are allowed to have. You pay for that slot regardless of how often your child attends.

Child care providers have to pay the same payroll, rent, utility, supply, food, etc. whether a child misses a day or attends. It is time for Utah's subsidy process to match the commitment that private paying parents make.

Previously the federal government mandated that states have attendance requirements. However, in recent years they have removed that requirement and have actually made paying for enrollment rather than attendance one of their Top 5 Best Practices. This bill would simply adopt that best practice for Utah and provide some income stability for child care programs that serve Utah's needy families.

Thank you for reading and for all you do personally for our great state!



"Serving and Supporting Utah Providers and Families for over 30 years"