

Dear Governor & Legislators

If you receive this message and you care, please take this into consideration. I am a preschool teacher and I work with children who come from families who are not as privileged to afford quality childcare without assistance.

It saddens me that this is even an issue. This is a lose/lose problem for everyone involved. Children: Will miss out on quality early childhood education because- parents: Will be forced to leave their jobs to care for their children.

Teachers: Will lose their jobs.

Don't you know how important early childhood education is? It is the foundation for the future. Research proves to us that children who attend quality early childcare programs are more likely to succeed beyond it. Parents who are stressed out, overwhelmed and overworked cannot attend to the needs of their children in the appropriate manner.

Children who do not receive proper guidance or attention from their families tend to head south in other parts of their lives (incarceration, drugs, violence, etc.). Is that what the goal is? There are hardworking parents who sometimes work two+ jobs in order to support their children and make a living and it still is not enough.

I know parents who want the best for their children and avoid poor quality child care "baby sitters" to send them to our program- a place where their development is actually supported by quality care and education.

What should they do when they are denied that right due to all of these new changes? I am a hardworking teacher and I dedicate a lot of my life to helping children. If I lose my job here, I would be behind on living expenses and the good that I do where I work will be lost.

Do you see how this is hurting ALL of us? It is impacting our communities and only doing more harm than good. Think about the long term effects these changes will have on the lives of children and families who are trying to do right. They are trying to make a living. They are trying to afford more and survive! They are trying to succeed and give their own children the chance to do so as well. I speak as an advocate for young children and for hardworking members of the community.

Sincerely,

Alex R.