

01/21/2025

Anonymous

Former family childcare provider of 30 years.

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent challenges faced by family childcare providers, a situation that has ultimately compelled me to close my childcare service this past September, after 30 years of dedicated service. The current legislative changes and the evolving roles of licensors have significantly impacted our ability to operate effectively.

Family childcare providers, like myself, offer loving and safe environments for children while their parents are at work or school. Historically, licensors served as supportive resources; however, their roles have shifted to be more punitive, which has created a barrier to open communication. Furthermore, the star rating system unfairly disadvantages home-based child cares, as we often lack the necessary resources and staff to achieve comparable ratings to larger centers.

The media and Department of Human Services frequently overlook the unique struggles we face, including the unrealistic standards imposed by new proposed rules. These conditions are driving family child cares out of business, not due to a lack of passion for our work, but because the current system is unsustainable.

It is crucial that our concerns are acknowledged and addressed to ensure the future of family childcare.

Sincerely, Former family childcare provider.