

Mis Amigos

April 8, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for supporting the licensing modernization, especially the risk-based licensing system in SF5385. Currently, all citations carry the same weight even for vastly different violations. I firmly believe that we need to make these changes to improve the fairness for centers and improve the safety for children. It will help parents understand what violations are serious and which ones are not.

I will give you a real life example of something that happened to us recently. A couple of weeks ago, we had our annual licensing visit. We received a citation for a little bit of black landscaping cloth that was exposed on our playground. While I wish that someone had caught that issue and fixed it, it is not a real hazard. We have also previously been cited for not having our school name written on a pack of diaper wipes. On the other hand, I have seen some of my competitors get cited for things like being out of ratio (maybe 6 infants to 1 teacher) or operating outside of their license (like licensed for 100 kids but having 102 attending). In my opinion, these types of citations are much different!

Please help advance this much-needed modernization of the licensing process.

Respectfully,

Dawn Uribe
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Golden Valley, St Paul, Excelsior & Chaska