

To: State of North Carolina, NC Division of Child Development, NC Childcare commission

Re: Increase Capacity / Childcare in Residences/Family Childcare

North Carolina is currently suffering from a lack of childcare spaces for children. This is a major problem, and it is causing devastation to the North Carolina economy as well as many families in North Carolina.

I would like to implore you to please consider the following plan to aid childcare providers and the people who need quality childcare so desperately:

Allow a family childcare home to provide care for one of the following groups of children, including the providers own preschool age children and school-age children up to 13 years of age:

1. A maximum of 3 children birth-24 months of age, plus 3 children 2-5 years of age, and 3 school age children up to 13, for a total of 9 children.

2. A maximum of 10 children if all children are older than 24 months of age.

3. A maximum of 8 children if with no more than 5 children when 5 children are ages birth to 5 plus 3 school age children.

4. A maximum of 15-20 (15 Three-year-olds and 20 Four-year-olds) children for centers located in a residence when no child is under 24 months of age. (Please do not forget about the **centers in residence** that have many expenses as they must follow the same rules as the center but have no increase in the allowable children compared to the same classroom in a center.

Family childcare providers are currently licensed for 5 children under the age of 5 and 3 children that are school age (5 or older). What this means is that the state has said that these providers can handle 8 children all day in the summer but during the school year they can only handle 5 unless the children are school age.

This is a rule that is not logical. For example, a provider that has 5 children aged 4 cannot take 3 more children that are 4 but can take 3 more children who are 5 years of age.

Providers who offer spaces to children 2 years and up can certainly handle 3 more children the same age or older. These ratios are still considerably lower than the ratios seen in childcare centers in which the classroom would have 10 to 20 children. Moreover, this change can potentially add thousands of spaces immediately to the state.

In addition to providing more spaces for families who are in desperate need of childcare, this change could bring up the wages of family childcare providers. The state is currently sending subsidies to providers and organizations like WAGES offer bonuses to try to offer providers

some form of compensation for their low wages. This plan could allow providers to increase their wages without any handouts from the government.

In summary, allowing providers to care for more children costs the state zero dollars. It raises the wages of family childcare providers, and it increases the number of childcare spaces in the state, alleviating the childcare space crisis we are experiencing and will only continue to face as facilities close due to low wages.

Your consideration on our behalf is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dennette Bailey, M. ED

Bailey Preschool

WS/Forsyth County

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