

Senate Bill 234

Keep Kids Close to Home Act
Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley)

THIS BILL

To meet the needs of California families, SB 234 equalizes the permitting requirements for small and large family childcare homes, clarifies that family childcare is allowed in apartments and condos, and strengthens tenant protections for family childcare providers so they can continue to offer early care and education for our children, and support parents working.

THE ISSUE

Licensed childcare is available for only 23% of children with working parents, and the numbers keep getting worse. In fact, California has lost almost a third of its family childcare homes since 2006. The median cost of childcare has skyrocketed in many cities in the Bay Area – rising from about \$1,200 a month to more than \$1,700 a month for infant care.

Family childcare is a vital support to children, families, and our communities. Family childcare providers offer flexible hours for parents with untraditional work schedules, a nurturing home environment close to where families live, and are the primary source of care for babies and toddlers. Additionally, family childcare providers meet cultural and language needs of California's diverse families.

Because of gaps in the current state law, family childcare providers still face unnecessary red tape that keep them from caring for children. Providers are also routinely discriminated against by rental property owners, despite current state law and regulatory guidance to protect them. This red tape and housing discrimination force many family childcare providers, a number of whom are women of color, to close or hold back from expanding to care for more children. Consequently, parents have an even harder time finding licensed childcare close to home, and children are missing out on quality early learning experiences.

Some cities and counties already have local ordinances that encourage family childcare. SB

234 will apply these positive local models statewide and update the law to encourage and support family childcare throughout California.

SOLUTION

SB 234 accomplishes the following:

- Reduces red tape by requiring that local governments treat licensed large family childcare homes (14 children) the same as small family child care homes (8 children) – as a residential use of property for the purposes of all local ordinances.
- Clarifies that licensed family childcare homes are allowed in apartments and other types of multifamily units.
- Updates housing protections for licensed family childcare providers to ensure they will not be prohibited from opening or operating solely for providing childcare.
- Clarifies that childcare providers can file for protections under the Fair Employment and Housing Act if they are discriminated against.

SUPPORT

Child Care Law Center (Co-Sponsor)
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network (Co-Sponsor)
SEIU (Co-Sponsor)
AFSCME-UDW (Co-Sponsor)
United Domestic Workers – AFL-CIO
Equal Rights Advocates
GRACE
California Family Child Care Network
San Diego County Family Child Care Assoc.
Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County
Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County
First 5 Sonoma County
First 5 Santa Clara County

Creative Journeys In-Home Preschool & Child
Care
Morning Song Preschool and Childcare
Tater Tots Daycare
Wonderschool

CONTACT

Katerina Robinson
State Capitol Office, Room 5094
916-651-4009 | katerina.robinson@sen.ca.gov

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