



## 2020 Public Policy Agenda

1. Expand upon the violations that qualify for a fix-it ticket, including those that do not impose an immediate risk to the health and safety of children in our care and/or can be corrected immediately. *Chapter 245A.065; [SF 669](#)*
2. Protect providers from false accusations. *Chapter 626.556; [SF 1064](#)*
  - A. Make it a crime to knowingly report false allegations against a DHS licensed program.
  - B. Allow providers to seek restitution from individuals who are found to have made false allegations, including, but not limited to, legal fees and loss of revenue.
  - C. Require individuals to include identifying information when reporting abuse or neglect.
3. Prevent homeowner's insurance companies from rating or denying homeowner's policies to family child care providers who carry a liability policy. *Chapter 65A.30; [SF 981](#)*
  - A. Tie liability policy to homeowner's insurance for notification purposes.
  - B. Allow providers who close temporarily to suspend liability coverage.
4. Require health insurance companies to cover injuries or illnesses that occur on a family child care or child care center property when the injury or illness did not occur due to the abuse or negligence of the provider.  
*Other programs are not held accountable for medical bills when a child is injured, this can and has been a huge financial burden for child care providers.*  
[SF 977](#)
5. Change the requirement for reporting of injuries to one that *requires or required* medical treatment by a physician. *9502.0375 Subp2 (D)*
6. Allow the provider's own child to go to an unlicensed area of the home, such as their bedroom.

7. Streamline required training components such as SUIDS, AHT, Active Supervision, Child Development/Behavior Guidance, and any new requirements resulting from the Child Care Development Block Grant reauthorization into one, 2-hour class as an annual refresher course for license holders who have already completed the full course. Allow a self-study course option available for all providers online or through their licensor. Chapter 245A.50; [SF 789](#) / [HF 711](#)
8. All trainings that are required on a two-year and five-year schedule should be allowed to be completed during a provider's licensing year to coincide with all other required trainings. *The difficulty in finding the required class when needed, especially when classes are canceled due to low enrollment or inclement weather, causes providers to be out of compliance.* Chapter 245A.02, Chapter 245A.50; [SF 979](#) / [HF 2048](#)
9. Simplify training requirements for helpers/substitutes. Helpers who assist with care on a regular basis under the direct supervision of the license holder are exempt from training requirements. Chapter 245A.50
10. Per the intent of 2019 legislation, clarify that substitutes who provide less than 500 hours of care in a 12-month period do not need to complete the same additional training requirements as the license holder. Chapter 245A.50;
11. Give trainers 2 hours of continuing education for every 2 hours of training they present, not including a repeat of the same class in the same calendar year. *Trainers have to put in many hours of research and preparation for developing a training, in addition to presenting the classes, and should be given credit for those hours. If it's a DHS required training that they present, then presenting it should also count towards the training requirement.*
12. Require DHS to fulfill their promise to family child care providers and offer fingerprinting on nights and weekends all across the state. *There are currently some areas with only one fingerprinting location; only open from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and closed for lunch. Most providers will have to close child care in order to have their families fingerprinted. To add to frustrations, providers have had to make multiple trips to complete the fingerprinting process due to the machines repeatedly malfunctioning.*

**13.** Oppose any funding for Voluntary PreK/Universal Preschool programs.

**14.** Re-evaluate the Parent Aware Rating system. As it currently exists Parent Aware is more of a detriment to licensed family child care.

- A.** Stop giving automatic 4-star ratings. School-based programs are given an automatic 4-star rating from MDE and are not required to comply with the same child care licensing standards as other programs.
- B.** Make it clear to families that Parent Aware ratings have nothing to do with health & safety standards. All licensed family child care providers are required to follow the same licensing rules and statutes.
- C.** Allow grants dollars to be awarded to 4-star programs. Continuing to offer a quality child care program takes a lot of work and additional financial resources.
- D.** Change the Parent Aware child care “look up” website to be a true distance measurement from the search address instead of prioritizing 4-star school-based programs that are a further distance. *A 4-star school-based program that is miles farther than a 3-star rated family child care program will come up first in a search.*
- E.** Hold all programs accountable for the licensing violations they receive. *There are dozens of centers with “affirmed” maltreatment and/or employees who do not have background studies or the basic trainings required by licensing. These programs are allowed to keep the 4-star rating and be touted as the best of the best. If a family child care provider received the same violations, he/she would lose the star rating and, likely, their license. At minimum, a child care center needs the star rating lowered, if not revoked, for serious and/or repeat violations. Parent Aware claims that the programs goes above and beyond licensing standards. If true, this should be factored into child care centers’ ratings.*
- F.** The program should be based on the outcomes of the program, not the amount of paperwork that can be submitted.
- G.** A June 2020 deadline will limit clients with Early Learning Scholarships to only attend 3 and 4-star rated programs. *This needs to be postponed at least until the Parent Aware is overhauled to be a true quality rating system.*