



## Child Care in Virginia

- ✘ The average annual cost of full time center-based infant care is \$12,792, which is more than the average cost of tuition and fees at a four year college in Virginia.
- ✘ Virginia does not license child care homes until 5 unrelated children are in the home.
- ✘ There are 14 categories of “license-exempt” care in Virginia. This means no background checks, no training, no inspections for child safety.

### NACCRRRA’s 2010 Parent Polling shows:

- The top two concerns of parents about child care are quality and cost.

Child Care Aware® of America  
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Susana Coro and her husband have two children, Max who is 7 years old and Yadida who is 4. When Max was a toddler, Susana looked everywhere for child care, but had difficulty finding a quality program.

A friend told her about an accredited center. However, they had no openings. She begged the director every day for months. Finally, a spot opened for Max. Center staff helped Susana apply for child care assistance. Max was screened and found eligible for speech services. The speech therapist came to the center and she and the center staff worked with Max. Susana was hired to work part-time in the center. When she was promoted to full-time, she lost her child care subsidy because she earned too much for child care assistance. Luckily, the program raised a modest amount of private funds and was able to assist her family. If the center did not help Susana in a time of need, her children would not have been able to attend the center. It makes no sense that Susana could work in a program that she could not afford to send her children to.

Susana Coro is now an Assistant Teacher at the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center. Most recently, Ms. Coro testified before the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on Children and Families about the need for quality, affordable child care. Professionally, Susana recently obtained a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

### Child Care Aware® of Virginia's Policy Recommendation:

- Increase funding for child care so that more families can receive assistance and the assistance they receive is closer to the market rate of care.
- Coordinate with other federal programs to ensure that children in child care receive an early childhood developmental screening to identify children who would benefit from early intervention programs.
- Increase funding for tuition assistance for the child care workforce to access higher education coursework and wage supplements to promote higher pay for early childhood teachers once they obtain a degree or certification.

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