

IN SUPPORT OF MINIMAL SAFETY PROTECTIONS FOR CHILD CARE- SB1239

We, the undersigned, believe that all children deserve safe child care. Without minimal safety standards for child care programs we are leaving our children's safety to chance. Efforts to ensure a minimum floor for safety in child care defined in Senator Hanger's SB1239 deserve your support.

The recommendations in SB1239 were informed by stakeholders and advocates and provided a well-informed and researched perspective to make their considerations. This workgroup recommended moving some types of child care to the definition of "not child care" and for others asked that minimal safety standards apply to raise the floor for safety. The version of SB1239 that passed the Senate 38-2 is the closest representation of the recommendations of that workgroup.

The minimal safety standards are important because they not only protect children from those who should not be in the business of providing child care or from injury or harm. They also allow for child care programs to share common connections, regardless of their licensure status. Now all programs that are in the business of caring for children would have at least one staff person trained in CPR and First Aid, provide background checks for their staff, have safe sleep protocols for infants and collect data on serious injuries to children in their care. The Virginia Department of Social Services would create monitoring procedures for these programs.

This approach raises the level of safety and the field of practice in Virginia. It also represents a good business practice for those who provide care to maintain these minimal safety precautions. We encourage you to ensure that these health and safety precautions are applied to all of the regulated settings in Virginia, including those that are now license-exempt.

We believe that protecting all children means providing minimal safety standards to ALL types of child care. Please reject any amendments to weaken the protections for children in care.

Licensed and License-Exempt Child Care

ALIVE! Child Development Center
All Star Preschool
Building Minds Daycare
Clarendon Child Care Center
Cornerstones
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Creative Learning Center
Creative Play School
Dora L. Lewis Family and Child Development Center, Weinstein JCC
Elizabeth Wheeler Licensed Provider
Fairlington Preschool
Falls Church-McLean Children's Center
Giggles & Grins Family Childcare
Hopkins House
Jackson Child Care
Main Street Child Development Center
Rainbow Station Three Chopt
Ree Ree's House
Reston Children's Center
Robots and Mud Pie Preschool
Seven Corners Children's Center

St. Andrew Lutheran Preschool
VCU Health Childcare Northside
Winfree Memorial Preschool
Advocates, Coalitions and Business
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Heart Association
Arlington County Department of Human Services
Champions for Children: Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads
Child and Family Network Centers
Child Care Aware of Central Virginia
Child Care Aware of Eastern Virginia
Child Care Aware of Virginia
Child Care Aware of Western Virginia
Child Development Resources
ChildSavers
Eastern Prince William Area Family Child Care Association
Family Child Care Advocacy Coalition
ChamberRVA
HumanKind

Infant Toddler Family Day Care
Kid's First LLC
Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children
Northern Virginia Family Services
Nurture Child and Family, PLLC
Prevent Child Abuse Virginia
Prince William Family Child Care Association
Smart Beginnings Greater Prince William
Smart Beginnings Greater Richmond
Square Peg Consulting
Stop Child Abuse Now Northern Virginia
The Childcare Network
Virginia Alliance Family Child Care Association
Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education
Virginia Child Care Association
Virginia Head Start Association
Virginia Poverty Law Center
Voices for Virginia's Children
Wingspan