

CARE THAT WORKS

Families And Providers United For Child Care



H.456 An Act to expand access to family, friend and neighbor-provided childcare

The problem:

With major workforce development needs in construction, health care, transportation, and other essential industries, **the ongoing child care crisis is holding Massachusetts back.** Low-income parents and parents of color seeking better career opportunities are unable to find child care that works, especially close to home and open for early or late shifts.

Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers, typically grandmothers, are license-exempt and can register for state payment through the child care voucher. **But the state pays a maximum of \$23 dollars per day for one child in FFN child care.** And when families need FFN child care in combination with a formal program, the voucher is not always flexible enough to pay both.

Due to these barriers, **less than 1% of state child care subsidy funding goes to FFN providers** and the parents and children that rely on them. FFN caregivers, so essential for parents with nonstandard schedules or living in child care deserts, have been left unseen and unsupported.

The solution:

Bill H.456, sponsored by Representative Marjorie Decker, would increase state support for FFN childcare so our most excluded families and caregivers can access care, resources, and opportunities to thrive.

- 1. Raise FFN provider pay up to the state minimum wage** to give parents more child care options and stabilize the providers they know and trust.
- 2. Fix the childcare voucher** so parents can use the full ten-hour daily value for the combination of formal and FFN care that works for their schedules.
- 3. Promote quality-supportive policies, programs, and practices for FFN child care** by establishing a state FFN Advisory Council.

The big picture:

Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) child care has been left out of the conversation, but it is the key to supporting the child care needs of parents seeking workforce development opportunities today, and it is a key building block for the equitable universal childcare system we need in the long term for all parents, children, and caregivers to thrive.

Care That Works (CTW)

The Care That Works coalition is a multiracial, feminist, working-class coalition of unions and community groups organizing paid and unpaid child caregivers: parents, relatives and friends, domestic workers, family child care providers, and center-based workers.

Our work is to reimagine, realign, and grow our care ecosystem as a public good to ensure that all care jobs are good jobs and that all forms of care are abundant for all communities.

For more information:

Visit our website at carethatworks.org or contact Sarah Jimenez at sarah@massclu.org.

Campaign Steering Committee

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