



SB 599 (West)

Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to regulate a licensed child-care facility or registered family home.

What is Family Home Child Care? As the name implies, family home child care is simply an individual Texan providing care in his or her – usually her – home. These small businesses provide working parents with smaller, more personalized care right in their neighborhoods. Some home providers specialize in providing child care during night-time work hours or offer other flexible arrangements for wage workers.

Where is Family Home Child Care Important in Texas? Home-based child care is everywhere in Texas and serves all kinds of working Texans. Many parents want to send their children to family child care homes that are closer to home or more culturally responsive. Parents in rural communities or working non-traditional hours often have no other options as center-based child care is not economically feasible in areas with low population and at non-peak times.

Texas has lost 18% of our family child care homes or 879 family providers since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The loss of child care only continues today as more programs close each month. **Businesses are feeling the pinch.** Employers in “child care deserts” with existing child care shortages and in rural communities rely on home-based child care providers, as do businesses operating during non-traditional hours. A drop in family home child care hurts employers, reduces profits, and creates a drag on the Texas economy.

How Can Texas Support and Expand Family Child Care Within Existing Resources?

Local Deregulation: The Texas Health and Human Services Commissions regulates and monitors the health and safety of child care centers in Texas. State child care regulations create a consistent and research-based standard statewide for the well-being of children. Unfortunately, some local ordinances and zoning can create huge hurdles for Texans wanting to create more family home child care for working parents.

Legislative Fix: Pass legislation limiting power of cities and counties to create and impose regulations that are duplicative of state health and safety requirements.

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PLEASE CONTACT:

Mandi Kimball, VP & Chief Government Relations Officer, 512.785.7132 or mkimball@childrenatrisk.org,
Kim Kofron, Senior Director of Education, 512.656.3797 or kkofron@childrenatrisk.org