



MAC'S POLICY AGENDA IS BASED ON THESE UNDERSTANDINGS:

*Child care is essential
for families, employers,
and community economic development.
Children need high quality care to thrive.*

Child care workers need better pay.

Families cannot afford to pay more.

AFFORDABILITY & COMPENSATION



Expand Best Beginnings Scholarship Eligibility to 85% of Montana median income.

Under current eligibility, a family of three earning \$48000 is not eligible for assistance, even though monthly child care costs \$758 - 975 per child, on average.

Under proposed eligibility, the same family of three earning \$68,000 would see their monthly cost capped at 450 per month.

An estimated **30,563** children currently live in families between the **current** and the **proposed** eligibility.

An estimated **2374** children newly eligible children would enroll.

The estimated annual cost of this expansion: \$17 million





Expand Best Beginnings Scholarship Eligibility to 85% of Montana median income.

Current status: Bill draft ready

Draft #: LC2106

Draft requested by: Rep. Jonathan Karlen

Likely Committee: House Human Services

Committee Members:

Lyn Bennett, Ron Marshall, SJ Howell, **Steven Kelly**, Jane Weber, Ed Buttrey, George Nikolakakos, Valerie Moore, Jade Sooktis, Katie Zolnikov, James Reavis, Curtis Schomer, Brian Close, Scott Demarois, Melody Cunningham, Brandon Ler, Kathy Love, Nelly Nicol, **Amy Regier**, Katie Sullivan, Zooney Zephyr

Hearing Date and Time: tbd





Expand Best Beginnings Scholarship Eligibility to child care workers, regardless of income.

*In a recent survey, **more than half** of child care facilities were providing a child care tuition benefit to staff.*

*Staff and providers agree that assistance with child care costs helps with **recruitment and retention** - yet income limits were disqualifying to many child care workers in two-earner households.*

*An estimated **550** children of child care workers currently live in families above the **current** eligibility.*

The estimated annual cost of this expansion: \$4 million





Expand Best Beginnings Scholarship Eligibility to child care workers, regardless of income.

Current status: Bill in draft process

Draft #: LC1787

Draft requested by: Rep. Jonathan Karlen

Likely Committee: House Business and Labor

Committee Members:

Ed Buttrey, Kerri Seekins-Crowe, Jennifer Lynch,

Bob Carter, Scott DeMarois, Chip Fitzpatrick,

Steve Fitzpatrick, Steve Gist, Jamie Isaly,

Jonathan Karlen, Brandon Ler, Sharon Maness,

Ron Marshall, Nelly Nicol, Greg Oblander,

Curtis Schomer, Joshua Seckinger, **Courtney Sprunger,**

Katie Sullivan, Morgan Thiel

Hearing Date and Time: tbd



Establish a statewide program providing monthly grants to providers for raising wages by up to \$2.00 per hour

13% of MT child care workers live in poverty (compared to 7% of all MT workers.)

45% of MT child care workers earn below 200% of the FPL (\$30,120 for a single person), compared with 22% of all MT workers.

The True Cost of Care is upwards of \$23,000 - more than twice what most families struggle to pay currently.

More equitable pay was the top desired benefit among child care workers. (State B5 survey.)

Other states are working to establish wage programs to stabilize the industry and reduce turnover: MN, IL, NM



Establish a statewide program providing monthly grants to providers for raising wages by up to \$2.00 per hour

Current status: Bill in draft process

Draft #: LC1775

Draft requested by: Rep. Melissa Romano

Likely Committee: House Human Services

Committee Members:

Lyn Bennett, Ron Marshall, SJ Howell, **Steven Kelly**, Jane Weber, Ed Buttrey, George Nikolakakos, Valerie Moore, Jade Sooktis, Katie Zolnikov, James Reavis, Curtis Schomer, Brian Close, Scott Demarois, Melody Cunningham, Brandon Ler, Kathy Love, Nelly Nicol, **Amy Regier**, Katie Sullivan, Zooey Zephyr

Hearing Date and Time: tbd ****Ideally, heard first of the three*

CONNECT WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS



What do I say?

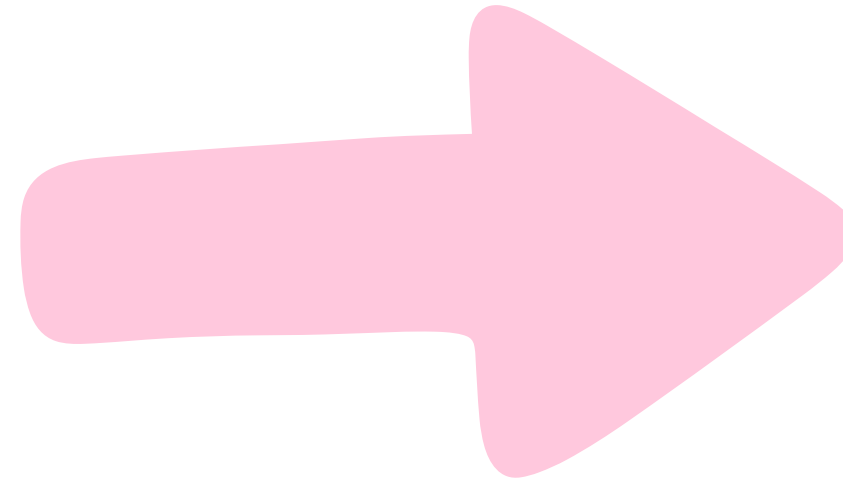
I would love
to talk with you
about child care.

I think there's a lot
that could be done
about child care.

I work in child
care, and it's
getting harder to
stay open.

WEIGH IN ON A BILL

Call or email committee members



Bill introduced in House or Senate

To Committee

Give written, virtual, or in-person testimony



Committee Hearing

Committee Report

Call or email Representatives/Senators



2nd Reading

Floor Action

3rd Reading

(And remember, this process happens in both the House and the Senate, for bills that make it through!)

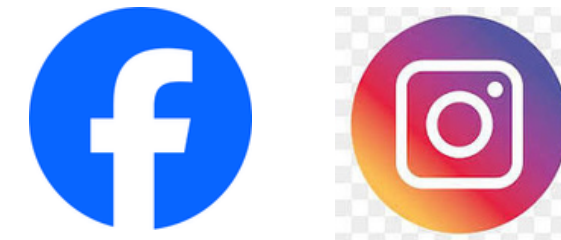


STAYING IN THE KNOW

Webinar for families tonight!
For MT Kids

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