

# Voices in Touch



Stay up to date on policy and advocacy topics affecting your work in Olympia, King County, and Seattle.



## THE RUNDOWN:

### Restrictions on Family Child Care Centers

Home Owners Association's (HOAs) have been restricting and suing licensed providers who run family child care centers out of their homes. These centers are an essential part of Washington's mixed delivery education system, and a vital component to East African Immigrant and Refugee business owners and families. This legislative session, **House Bill (HB) 1199 was proposed to stop HOAs from imposing restrictions on family child care centers.**

## THE NEED FOR A NEW LAW

The sponsor of HB 1199, Representative Tana Senn, spoke about her concern during a public hearing after a conversation with 90 providers in the state who shared they were facing fines from their HOAs, and in some cases even eviction.

It's not surprising that a spotlight was put on family child care centers during the pandemic, when many people transitioned to working from home. However, home-based child care is not a new phenomenon. In fact, pre-pandemic statistics courtesy of Child Care Aware of WA reveal **58% of all child care facilities across the state are home-based.**

The need for child care is also a growing issue across not only in Washington but the entire country, as ChildTrends reports **home-based centers have declined by 25% across the U.S. in the last 10 years.**

## OUR THOUGHTS

During the several public hearings of this bill, HOA members shared concerns of extra noise and traffic in neighborhoods, as well as fears of liability to property damage or injury. However, family child care centers are high quality, licensed businesses. Voices of Tomorrow strongly supports family child care providers who provide:

- **Economic opportunity** for those seeking to open their own businesses
- **A culturally and linguistically relevant** choice for many families who prioritize maintaining their children's identity
- **Affordability and increased access** to options as Washington is facing a child care shortage.

## AT A GLANCE: HB 1199

- January 25th - Passed WA State House with 96 yeas, 0 nays
- April 6th - Passed WA State Senate **with amendments** with 37 yeas, 11 nays

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- Amendments were made to the bill in the Senate. The House will now have to approve them, and vote on the bill again
- If the House votes yes, the bill will be sent to Governor Inslee's desk for signature and the bill will become law!

**STAY IN TOUCH ON OUR NEXT EDITION TO FIND OUT IF THIS BILL TURNS INTO LAW!**

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

**CLICK HERE** or use the QR code below to submit your responses to our short questionnaire & let us know what you want to learn about next!



For additional questions or comments, email [PAD@voicesoftomorrow.org](mailto:PAD@voicesoftomorrow.org)

April 10, 2023  
Brought to you by:

**Voices of  
Tomorrow**  
Public Policy & Advocacy

SUBSCRIBE