

Dear Senators,

I am a Vermont early childhood educator writing to inform you that I do NOT support the S.119 bill and urge you to consider voting against it. Many providers believe in the ongoing education and training necessary for childcare providers, but this bill may not be the most effective way to support us. Continuing as a Family Childcare Home Provider under this bill would pose several challenges, including financial strain and time constraints.

I work 45 hours a week directly with children, plus additional hours for preparation, curriculum planning, cleaning, grocery shopping, professional development, etc. Continued collegiate education requires a significant investment of both time and money, which are limited resources for many providers. The degree required under the proposed ordinance could be burdensome for long-time providers who have built successful programs without university-sponsored degrees.

Many providers have maintained their careers for over 10 years, fulfilling all required yearly classes to stay current on childcare practices and remaining certified in CPR and First Aid. While continuing education is commendable and beneficial for those who choose to pursue it, making it a mandatory requirement may not be suitable for everyone.

Additionally, the bill could impact families by increasing childcare tuition in an uncertain economy. Reducing the number of providers could lead to increased demand and potential negative effects on families with young children. We should aim to facilitate, not hinder, the growth of families in Vermont.

The new degree and field hour requirements could also result in burnout among providers, counteracting the intended benefits of the measure.

Thank you for considering this matter. While I support ongoing educational support for FCCH providers, I believe the S.119 bill is NOT the most appropriate approach.

Please vote NO on the S.119 bill and explore alternative ways to support existing childcare spaces.

Best,  
Kimberly Catella