

Additional Testimonies for S. 0119

Collected on 4/1/25-4/2/25. Of 40 total providers, 10 reported to have a degree, and 15 reported they would likely close due to S. 0119.

“This will affect a lot of home providers but also people working in centers as well.”

– Kimberly Hicks (FCCH)

“I am a certified elementary educator. I think it’s a huge mistake to increase the barriers for professionals before increasing pay and benefits. The shortage of educators is only going to increase. Let’s work on making this career path worthwhile for educators before making it even harder to enter the field. This is going to be detrimental to families across the state as childcare facilities close because of this legislation. Also, the license renewal fees seem ridiculously high. It’s outrageous that educators have to pay a fee at all in order to renew their credentials, and these fees are way too high.”

– Kelcey McAnulty (FCCH)

“I have a bachelor’s in education, not ECE—will this suffice or will I need credits in ECE? You’re going to close needed daycares with this act....You’re going to make it impossible to stay in business.”

– Gretel-Ann Fischer (FCCH)

“I honestly am so overwhelmed that I’m unsure what I will do. Teachers have paid leave, a budget for materials, healthcare, summers off (and can choose to extend pay), and most work less than 40 hours a week. Home providers pay for everything—materials, toys, electric, mortgage/rent, etc. We work 50+ hours a week, year-round, with no healthcare, no retirement plan, very little paid time off, and keep up with all the paperwork and inspections. Asking providers to get a degree isn’t only ridiculous but insulting. I’m not opposed to a degree, but when would I have time? And the cost is prohibitive. Childcare is already in crisis, and this will only make it worse.”

– Danielle, Livingston Learning (FCCH)

“Stop trying to push Home Childcare providers out of the field! Many families prefer a home provider for their baby up to at least 3 years old over a ‘baby mill’ as some of these centers are!”
– Holly Rivers (FCCH)

“I will stay open as long as I can but am retiring in 10 years, so I don’t plan on returning to school. I have over 30 years in my childcare business and spend 50+ hours each week teaching, cleaning, preparing curriculum, and so much more. There’s already a huge childcare crisis, and I don’t see how requiring a degree will help. It will likely lead to many programs closing or going unregistered. Also, the overhead cost for salaries would increase, likely passing more costs on to parents. Lastly, there’s already a hiring problem in this field, and this requirement adds another stumbling block.”
– Valerie Williams (FCCH)

“I don’t feel this should happen. We all have to get training every year throughout the year.”
– Mary Wright, Green Mountain Childcare (FCCH)

“I do think the qualifications to be a home child care provider need to be raised, but there should be options, including a test or observation by a qualified individual that takes into account years of experience and current knowledge. Earning an associate’s degree or higher while operating a home childcare would lead many to close—and we already have a shortage.”
– Anne Audy (FCCH)

“While degrees are important, they are not the only way to measure high-quality childcare.”
– Danielle Huston, Clover Wonder Care (FCCH)

"This was never made clear, and paying us more then pulling these extra requirements is unfair. I've worked for 20 years with minimal raises. I definitely believe we needed to get paid more but do not believe we should have added hoops. Quality providers who have been doing this for years shouldn't have to prove themselves—the proof shows in their licensing visits."

– Jennifer A Bombard (FCCH)

"There are caring, capable childcare providers who have spent years of their lives dedicated to providing quality care but do not hold a degree in early education. Making people go back to school for a bare-minimum-paying job is unjustified. What will happen to all the children who lose care if this passes? Without childcare programs, parents can't work. This may look good on paper, but it doesn't reflect the real consequences."

– Kayla Nichols (FCCH)

"The mandatory requirement of an associate's degree will cripple the ECE workforce. Programs may choose to let their childcare licenses expire, creating unregulated programs instead."

– Lynn Macie, Macie's Home Childcare (FCCH)

"I think the required education is a good thing but understand the worries of others, especially those who have been in business many years and do not want to go back to school. A way to grandfather those providers might be a good course of action."

– Robyn McElwain (FCCH)

"Many family childcare providers have years of experience that is more valuable than a degree. Perhaps a proficiency test would be better for programs that have been running for 10+ years."

– Tysea Kurjiaka, Growing Branches LC (FCCH)

"Please do not do anything that would take away childcare slots! ECEs need to be paid more if the expectations for education level increase!"

– Alisha Pelton (FCCH)

“You are only going to hurt Vermonters.”

– Tiffani Zydonyk, Curious Cubs of Williamstown (FCCH)

“I believe that 20 years of experience and hundreds of hours of professional development is an early ed education.”

– Penny Cote (FCCH)

“It doesn’t take a bachelor’s degree to do this work as a home provider. Pulling providers away from their families to attend college defeats the purpose of doing this work to be with our own children. If I have to return to college because my bachelor’s isn’t enough, I will likely seek employment elsewhere with better pay and benefits.”

– Katie Ouelette (FCCH)

“Many of us Family Child Care providers have been doing this a long time. A degree will not change how I take care of children; experience helps with that. It’s upsetting that a few people are speaking for all of us.”

– Jeanine Wixson, deedee's daycare (FCCH)

“These are unreasonable changes that will drastically affect everyone. This is too extreme and unnecessary.”

– Amanda Williams (FCCH)

“I just want to say, reading this brought me tears. I only learned of this a week ago and couldn’t believe it. I’ve worked in childcare for 13 years, love my program, and have gained real knowledge through experience. I never expected big pay, but now you’re making it impossible to continue. Please reconsider—many good homes would be forced to close, and I can’t imagine where all those children would go.”

– Elisha Santarcangelo (FCCH)

“Burnout is real. Besides keeping up with yearly paperwork, we work long hours without breaks, do cooking and cleaning, and are dealing with more children on the spectrum. I started this so I could be home with my own kids, but more is expected of us every year, with minimal pay. Whoever came up with this needs to work in the field before expecting more from us.”

– Grace Schaefer, Kiddie Hollow (FCCH)

“I work 50 hours per week and don’t have the time or energy to pursue a degree. I have my CDA and continue professional development, but forcing a degree will make me close—and we already have a shortage of home-based care.”

– Leanne Judkins, Adventure Kids Childcare (FCCH)

“This is ridiculous and will destroy many, many families’ lives.”

– Merridith Sylvester, Bright Beginnings (Licensed Program)

“I feel the current educational requirements for a registered home daycare are sufficient. If this law is imposed, the coursework for an associate’s degree should be funded, and we should have two years to complete it. Otherwise, I’ll close.”

– Nan Reid (FCCH)

“I’ve provided high-quality care for 26 years and have extensive experience. A degree can’t replace that. Most of my colleagues are women who know how to raise children. It’s a slap in the face to say that we aren’t enough and need a degree now. This law will worsen the crisis.”

– Rachel Bolduc, Acorns to Oaks (FCCH)

“Childcare is already hard to find. I’m not sure how you intend to bring families to Vermont without providing childcare and by making it harder for providers to remain open.”

– Rumsey Torrey (FCCH)

“I think providers should be grandfathered in.”

– Sarah Delage (FCCH)

“Registered home daycare providers should not need any kind of degree. Child care providers are there to make sure the children are safe and happy. The learning that infants and toddlers require does not need an associate’s degree to do so. You guys already have enough control over what goes on in home registered daycares. Vermont will lose a lot more daycares if this passes. It’s hard enough to find childcare as it is!”

– Shannon Davis (FCCH)

“We’ve already lost so many family childcare homes. Perhaps such requirements should apply only to those newly entering the profession. I love what I’m doing and would like to continue, but not under these new demands.”

– Tami C Perron, Tami's Daycare (FCCH)