

CHILD CARE & THE ECONOMY



BENEFITS OF CHILD CARE

- Businesses need child care
- Working parents (and students) need child care
- Kids need high-quality early learning
- Critical racial equity strategy
- Broken market: Small businesses struggling but already too expensive for families
- Regulation not the culprit; national problem

THE COSTS OF (NO) CHILD CARE

* from Chamber of
Commerce Report 2017

WA economy loses \$6 billion/yr*

WA businesses lose \$2 billion/yr*

Parents forgo \$14 billion/yr*

Lost tax revenue \$1 billion/yr*

COVID & CHILD CARE

- Essential workers & non-office jobs
- Risk shift: Schools closed/Child cares essential
 - ✓ No health insurance
 - ✓ Women of color
 - ✓ School age & infant blend
 - ✓ Reduced ratios & added costs
- 26% of child cares closed; 34% of capacity
- A “shecession”

**AMY ANDERSON,
AWB**

“Economic
recovery can
not happen
without access
to child care.”

FAIR START FOR KIDS ACT

REP. TANA SENN &
SEN. CLAIRE WILSON



POLICY IN FAIR START: HB 1213 & SB 5237

- Support Workforce and Expand Supply
 - Pay, health care, professional development
 - Capital investments through Early Learning Facilities Fund
 - Technical Assistance for Businesses
- More Affordable for More Families
 - Co-pay reductions
 - Income eligibility expansion (FPL to SMI)
- Dual Language, Trauma Informed, Mental Health Consultation
- Pushes out ECEAP entitlement and more...
- Phased in over time

NOW IS THE TIME!

- Economic recovery—helping businesses and working parents!
- Shoring up the struggling child care industry comprised of diverse, low-income workforce
- Childhood development, especially during these anxious times
- Statewide, bi-partisan attention on this issue

DEDICATED REVENUE NEEDED A MUST

- 1% of state revenue spent on early learning; child care more expensive than college
- Respect the 1,000's of stakeholders engaged (business, child care, parents, equity groups, unions, House and Senate members all across the state)
- Revenue critical for long-term investment, actual change
 - Fair Start for Kids Act Account
 - Dedicated
 - HB 1496 has been introduced