

- PRESS RELEASE -

The Home Child Care Association of Ontario calls for revision to the proposed legislation to increase the numbers of young children (ages 0-2) a child care provider can have in their care

Ottawa (Ontario), December 17th, 2018 - In response to the memorandum from the Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education relating to child care in Ontario, the Home Child Care Association of Ontario (HCCAO) calls for revision to the proposed increase to the number of young children that home child care providers can have in their care, from two under 2 years to three under 2 years, as it has the potential to compromise the safety of young children.

Regulations are in place to support safety and quality; with no oversight this change means that one adult can choose to care for three non-walking, infants by themselves. Parents may start in care expecting their infant will receive the necessary individualized attention and care needed to provide a quality early learning experience but without licensing oversight the caregiver can add additional young infants. As such, the only options left to parents are to accept the additional risk and lesser attention or to end care with possible employment and educational consequences.

The HCCAO recognizes that access to early learning and child care is a significant need for families across Ontario. When carried out **within the licensed sector only**, because of the existing responsible oversight, focus and commitment to quality, regulatory requirements and high standards, the legislative change allowing care in homes for 3 children under two years is achievable without compromising children's safety.

While there was no specific consultation with the licensed home child care sector regarding this proposed change, HCCAO has subsequently met with staff from the Ministers office and will continue to work diligently during the legislative review process to assist the government in developing a greater understanding of the diversity of home child care offered throughout this province and the necessity of licensing oversight to support safety and quality.

The HCCAO does support the government's call to improve quality and deliver high standards of care and to make child care more affordable for Ontario families, as well as their interest in reducing red tape and to assist self-employed providers, who are affiliated with licensed agencies, increase their earnings.

The HCCAO membership is committed to the well-being of children and has a strong interest in contributing to the dialogue about how child care programs for children are organized, delivered and regulated throughout the province. For more information regarding the HCCAO please visit their website at www.hccao.com/about.html.

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Source:

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