

Family Child Care Leaders' Guide to Advocacy Rev. June 2017

Sample Template for Family Child Care Peer Organizations' Leaders

(associations, networks, support groups)

asking their fellow family child care educators to contact public officials
on issues related to children, families and family child care.

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Dear Family Child Care Educators,

Please do this on behalf of children, families and early childhood educators. Pass this on.

ABOUT: [bill no _____] [governor's budget] [federal budget] [CCDBG] [other]

WHAT'S AT STAKE: This would [benefit] [hurt] our [children][families] [family child care educators] because _____.

WHAT CAN WE DO: Make contact by email, phone call, or FAX. Give names, titles, emails, FAX and/or phone numbers. The easier we can make it, the more people will act.

FIND YOUR STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES:

http://action.nwlc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=find_your_elected_officials

TIMELINE: [on specific date _____] [from date/time ____ until date/time ____] [other_____]

SAMPLE MESSAGE TEMPLATE: (If nobody answers the phone, leave a message.)

"Hello, my name is _____. I'm a [family child care educator] [working mom/dad/parent] [other].

State[concerns] [what's good] [what will be harmful] [story] [details]

I urge you to _____.

Thank you for supporting our little children and working families.

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MORE INFO: Give links, more information, and supporting details.

MESSAGE TIPS:

When we agree with some of a bill's provisions but have concerns about others, we should say so.

General Talking Points:

- [I] [We] fully support safe, high quality early care and education. [I] [We] work tirelessly toward that.
- Early care and education is essential. It allows parents to work, gives children a good start, helps our businesses and strengthens our communities.
- The experiences of very young children, especially infants and toddlers, have permanent and profound lifelong consequences.
- All young children need excellent early care and education.
- All working families need access to excellent early care and education in a variety of convenient settings.
- All early childhood educators, in all settings, need full support to be able to do the work they are being relied on to do, especially those who care for infants and toddlers.

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NOTE TO 501 (c) (3) Family Child Care Organizations:

Charitable, non-profit, tax-exempt organization are expected to serve, educate and advocate on behalf of the public. However, lobbying should not be a major portion of activities and expenses of the overall operations. Electioneering (supporting or opposing individual candidates) is not allowed at all. Check non-profit corporation and IRS tax-exemption laws and regulations to be sure to keep within allowable limits.