



Minnesota Child Care Provider
Information Network
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March 8, 2023

RE: HF1403 – Beginning Line 127.1 245A.1435 REDUCATION OF RISK OF SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH IN LICENSED PROGRAMS

Mister Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Cyndi Cunningham. I have been a Licensed Family Child Care Provider in St. Paul for 26 years and am the current Public Policy Chairperson for Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network (MCCPIN), a 501c3 sitewide association for Licensed Child Care Providers.

I am writing on behalf of MCCPIN to support this section of HF1403.

Children need to be safe in care. Any injury troubles us all and a death is horrific.

2013 legislation brought focus to safe sleep standards. I was deeply involved in working through legislation with DHS, other providers, and the previous state association MLFCCA.

Providers needed and received through legislation clearer direction and regulation regarding Safe Sleep. Communication and clarification were established. So was oversight by the counties deepened.

Licensed Family Child Care is overseen by a county delegated system to the 87 counties. This means that without clear guidelines in legislation, there can be 87 different implementations. Providers and county licensors need clear consistent legislation to care for children safely and effectively.

Since 2013, products have changed and expanded. Then I was bringing a sleep sack to hearings. There was essentially only one product on the market. Now there too many product styles to count. Parents are inundated with information and working to do their best, but marketing is often not aligned with safe sleep. Practices have modified. Swaddling with a blanket was custom, now not allowed. Parents are doing their best as are providers.

Providers are frequently brought products by families which they are using, and we are placed in the position of determining whether they are safe to use in our settings or not. With clear legislation, licensors and providers can make safe and consistent decisions. Providers then have clear guidelines to share with families to support our decisions.

This legislation is the result of a collaborative effort by many stakeholders put into motion in 2019 by legislators. It is long overdue and needs passed and implemented now.

MCCPIN would welcome DHS including Certified Centers to be brought under these regulations as they are also inspected by DHS. In these certified settings, a 16-year-old can care for 4 infants and is required to have no more training than the SUIDS/AHT and no standards of safe sleep.

Thank you for hearing this bill and we trust that moving it forward, providers and licensors will have clarity on the rules to follow and children will continue to be safely cared for.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Cunningham