

UNITED
DAYCARES



Dear Commissioner Sam,

We are writing you on behalf of Daycares United, and the thousands of childcare centers throughout Massachusetts that provide the educational backbone for families of young children. We are deeply concerned about the revised childcare reopening policies and how they will result in the closure of hundreds of programs throughout the state eliminating care options for thousands of families, thereby forcing them into unregulated care, and adversely affecting our industry, permanently. We request an immediate further revision of the policies to reflect not only the considerations for health and safety, but also those of child development and the financial viability of the centers providing care.

In collecting survey data from over 155 licensed centers, center sizes will be reduced by an average of 29 children, resulting in a monthly income reduction of \$45,511. For 22% of programs, this will result in bankruptcy or an indefinite waiting period until being able to reopen. 21% of programs will reopen and will be forced to increase tuition fees, putting further pressure on parents, and 44% of programs will reopen with dramatically reduced schedules and enrollment. Assessing additional fees on already stressed families will further impact program enrollment as families will be forced to withdraw due to increased fees and tuition.

Full survey detail is available here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1x4PBsJJ1EW5QkcsJt8pdo03uPqklfRgWKd9A_6N0aCl/edit#responses

Daycares United is asking for three areas to be immediately addressed on behalf of the childcare industry:

1. Adopt the Daycares United proposed revision of the Minimum Health and Safety Requirements (attached) with a focus on the key areas of revision in (a.) Group Sizes and Ratios, (b.) Staffing, Operations, and Break Coverage, (c.) PPE Requirements.
2. Include private pay providers in the CARES Act funding. Private pay providers are struggling, and cannot be asked to enact required changes without the funds to do so. Daycares United is urging the State to provide a distribution of funds throughout the childcare industry, such as other states like Georgia and Maine.
3. Daycares United is calling on Commissioner Sam to participate in a public Zoom meeting (to occur no later than by Thursday, June 18th) hosted and moderated

by members of the Daycares United Board of Directors, to engage in a conversation about concerns of providers in relation to the health and safety requirements of the EEC.

On behalf of childcare providers throughout the state who feel they have no other option than to raise tuition up to 30%, who are frightened they will lose the businesses they have worked so hard to achieve, who feel they have no option but to close their doors, Daycares United is requesting an official response to this letter by Monday, June 15th. No childcare provider enters the field with financial riches their goal. We become providers because we want to make a difference in the lives of children, families and staff. We want to make a difference in the world. Quality childcare is already a scarce and expensive necessity for working families. The minimum standards as written will greatly reduce the choices while increasing the expenses on families, and cripple the childcare industry. Our proposed revisions will keep children, families and staff healthy and safe without unduly burdening families and providers.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter, and we look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,
Daycares United
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