



# Wisconsin Early Learning Coalition

Disability Rights Wisconsin ♦ Madison Area Accredited Early Childhood Association  
Milwaukee Child Care Alliance ♦ Parents Plus ♦ School Administrators Alliance  
Supporting Families Together Association ♦ Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health  
Wisconsin Association of School Boards ♦ Wisconsin Child Care Administrators Association  
Wisconsin Council for Exceptional Children - Division for Early Childhood  
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families ♦ Wisconsin Early Childhood Association  
Wisconsin Family Child Care Association ♦ Wisconsin Head Start Association

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Date: May 27, 2009  
To: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance  
From: Wisconsin Early Learning Coalition  
Subject: Child Care Budget Paper Alternatives

The Wisconsin Early Learning Coalition agreed on the following recommendations related to Legislative Fiscal Bureau papers #233, #234, #235, and #230:

## **Paper #233: Child Care Quality and Availability**

### **Support for Alternative 1**

### **Opposition to Alternative 3**

*Rationale:* The Coalition strongly supports investments to improve the quality of child care, with an emphasis on children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Early learning matters.

## **Paper #234: Quality Rating System for Child Care Providers**

### **Support for Alternative 2**

The Coalition would like assurance of the involvement of key stakeholders and the Early Learning Coalition in substantive planning to design the quality rating system.

### **Opposition to Alternatives 3 & 4**

*Rationale:* The Coalition believes a quality rating system for child care would provide an essential infrastructure for improving early learning in Wisconsin, especially when linked to training and technical assistance, scholarships for credit-based education, and wage stipends for staff meeting specified educational standards.

## **Paper #235: Increase Day Care Licensing Fee**

### **Oppose Alternatives 2, 3 & 4**

*Rationale:* Alternatives 2 & 3 would implement a tripling or quadrupling of licensing fees that would be a hardship for child care providers, and Alternative 4 does not allow for reasonable advance notice for programs to adjust to an increase in expenses.

## **Paper #230: Child Care Subsidies**

### **Support Alternatives 3b, 3c, 3d, and 4e**

*Rationale:* The Coalition supports **deleting** proposals for increased family co-payments, establishing waiting lists, and implementing an attendance-based policy. We support an alternative policy that would address under use of a child care authorization in Wisconsin Shares by adjusting the number of hours authorized, rather than having provider reimbursements based on attendance.

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