



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Administration
Office 614-728-5458
Fax 614-466-5087

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Ohio House Children and Human Services Committee
77 S. High St., 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman White and members of the Committee,

I write today in support of House Bill 647 and House Bill 649. Both bills seek to address problems regarding oversight and regulation of Ohio daycare centers.

I share your concern about the reports I've seen detailing allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse with Ohio's publicly funded childcare providers. While the Department of Children and Youth has investigated these claims, additional safeguards are reasonable to maintain the integrity of these services.

The bills under consideration by the committee advocate different approaches, and both would represent an improvement over the status quo. I would urge the committee to carefully consider the role assigned for the Department of Children and Youth, the Auditor of State's Office, local county prosecutors, and the Attorney General's Office. Whatever the legislature decides, it will be most helpful if each participating agency has clarity about the responsibilities designated to it under this bill.

In closing, my office is happy to play an appropriate role to ensure public confidence in this system. I would be happy to discuss this legislation with you or members of your committee at their convenience.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General