



Support Child & Home Care Workers

Legislative Issue Brief

Support Independent Child Care & Home Care Providers

The Issue: Ohio's Child Care and Home Care Providers are helping make Ohio's families safe and productive. By providing in-home care for our elderly, disabled and our future generations of Ohioans, parents can go to work knowing their children are in a safe, learning, and nurturing environment and those in need of assistance can remain in their homes.

Most home-based providers receive a state subsidy to care for low-income children, seniors and disabled citizens and are regulated by the state but are not covered by existing labor laws. Understandably, Child Care and Home Care Providers in Ohio have been seeking a voice on matters such as reimbursement rates, consistent pay practices, training and operating rules. Governor Strickland has heard their call and through executive action has authorized independent Care Providers the right to collective bargaining.

This action was a critical first step in creating a mechanism to understand the issues and problems faced by independent care providers, improve the quality of care and make it more affordable for working families. Now to secure the progress that has been achieved through executive order the General Assembly is called on to take action.

Action Needed: Thousands of Independent Child and Home Care Providers are now counting on the General Assembly to join a growing number of states by codifying the Governors action and placing in statute the right to organize and bargain collectively. By amending section 4413 in H.B. 1 to accomplish this the legislature would remove the threat that a future governor could take away the rights of these home care workers.

With this needed action child and home care workers would secure the protections of collective bargaining law, which includes being within the jurisdiction of the State Employee Relations Board for enforcement of the law. Independent Care Providers would not however, be considered public employees for any purpose, including the purposes of pensions or other benefits.

In recent findings of a National Women's Law Center (NWLC) report, Nancy Duff Campbell, Co-President of NWLC summed up the report by stating, "If current trends hold, unionizing home-based child care providers could be a significant advance for the entire child care system and the parents and children who depend on it." Similarly, unionized home care services for senior and disabled Ohioans are essential as the shift from government institutional services to a consumer-directed model continues.