



Department of
Job and Family Services

John R. Kasich, Governor
Cynthia C. Dungey, Director

October 10, 2014

Elaine Ward, Chair
1924 Dana Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45207

Dear Ms. Ward:

On behalf of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, I would like to thank the members of the Child Care Advisory Council (CCAC) for the dedication and expertise you bring to the field of early learning and child care throughout Ohio. The department has reviewed the council's recommendations and would like to take a moment to provide a few updates.

School Readiness

Amended Substitute House Bill 483 was signed by Governor Kasich on June 16, 2014 and implemented September 14, 2014. This bill contains language to allow families an additional 13 weeks of child care services after the loss of a qualifying activity. This language is an important step towards supporting families and preparing children for kindergarten. At this time, the budget is not structured to support the recommendation for a full twelve months. As the department prepares the next biennial budget, early learning and child care will be a topic that is considered.

Immunizations

Department representatives participated in an interested parties meeting with the sponsors of House Bill 536. Concerns similar to those outlined by the council were shared at this meeting such as the burden the provisions of the bill would cause to providers, families and licensing staff. A recommendation was made to amend language in the bill to allow physicians to determine immunization needs and schedules. At this time, there has not been an amended version and no further action has been taken. The department will continue to monitor the bill and will keep the council apprised of any new developments.

I appreciate the recommendations presented to the department and look forward to a continued partnership in our journey of continuous quality improvement for child care.

Sincerely,


Cynthia C. Dungey, Director

cc: Kara Bertke-Wente, Deputy Director

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