

Date

Child Care Modernization
c/o Early Years Division
Ministry of Education
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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you to share my concerns about the Phase 2 regulations for licensed child care proposed by the Ministry of Education on Feb 1st 2016.

Say something about yourself – I am an RECE / parent / grandparent / educator / service provider.

I have reviewed the proposed regulations and have discussed them at length with members of the community / child care sector.

The proposed regulations are being met with mounting opposition from the child care community all across Ontario. There is a broad consensus that if passed, these regulations would significantly hamper the quality of care available to young children and families. Below are some major issues associated with the Ministry's proposed Phase 2 regulations:

1. **A major shift to age ranges:** newly defined age ranges, ratios and group sizes would result in larger groups of younger children. While I support proposals suggesting increasing the number and proportion of qualified staff, the placement of younger children into larger groups still cannot be justified as it would threaten the safety and quality of young children's experiences.
2. **Workforce burnout:** the proposals would increase workloads for staff, further exacerbating workforce issues of recruitment, retention and remuneration. Without a complete workforce strategy trained professionals will be driven out of the sector.
3. **Increased parent fees:** Many centres will need to renovate space and change staffing in order to adopt the new requirements. With no new funding proposed for child care, parents will inevitably see increases in already high fees.

The proposed Phase 2 regulation changes to age ranges, ratios and group sizes will not help the government fulfil its vision of ensuring that Ontario's children and families are well supported by a system of responsive, high-quality, accessible, and increasingly integrated early years programs and services.

I urge you to not to proceed with these changes.

Yours truly

Your Name & contact information

Cc: Minister Sandals; Premier Kathleen Wynne; Local MPP