

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF VIRGINIA



CHILD CARE ISSUE GROUP - PROPOSED POSITION STUDY 2021

First, some background

Virginia's last state-wide study on childcare was completed 1985-1987.

It sought to address instances of child abuse and neglect in organized care settings and focused on improving quality through licensing and other measures.

It also called for financial assistance in the form of tax credits and/or subsidies to increase affordability.

Today's issues in childcare go beyond those previously explored and it's time the league took a more comprehensive stand.....

The state of childcare in Virginia today

Childcare as an industry has grown tremendously in Virginia since the 1980s shedding light on new issues and considerations.



Licensing Barriers



Benefits Cliff



Staff Underpay



Little's Excluded



Schoolkids Excluded



Inequity Perpetuated

Why do a Study Now?

The need has been identified! Yay!

There is desire and funding to do something about it! Yay!

HOWEVER

It is a complex problem that requires a complex solution.....

It will take time and persistence to fix.....

The League of Women Voters can make a difference.....

A Vision for child care in Virginia



No parent, ESPECIALLY black and minority parents - should ever have to choose between keeping or getting promoted in a job or caring for their child.



No child care center should ever have to choose between delivering quality care and remaining operational



Every young child is healthy, safe and learns requisite skills to be ready for kindergarten.



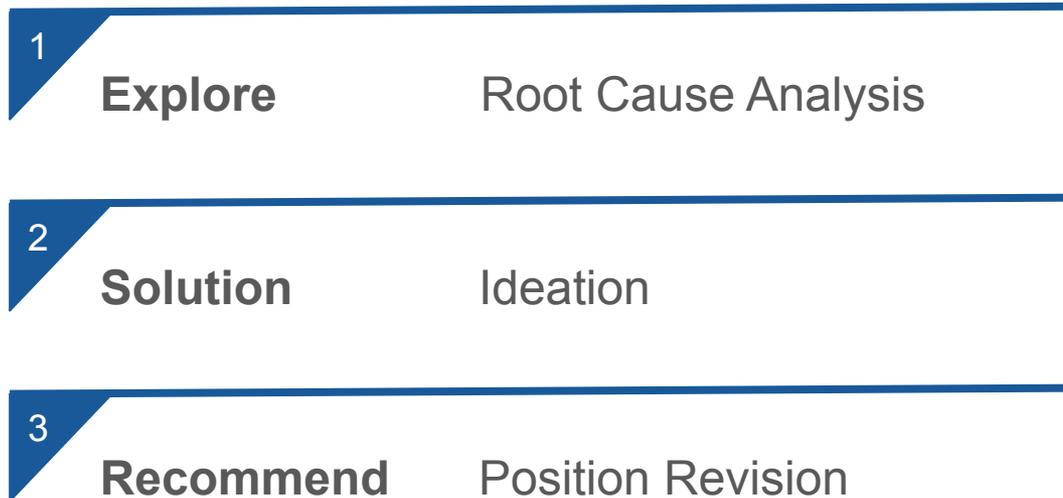
Every school-age child has a safe, nurturing place to go after school until such age as they can look after themselves



Every child care educator has the knowledge, skills and compensation to deliver quality care to every child

Study Design

Three parts. Five Workstreams



The five Workstreams correspond with the five stakeholder groups identified in the vision statements

Motion

I move to establish a position study to examine the nature of Virginia's child care system.

Due to the pandemic, hundreds of facilities have closed, thousands of families (mostly women) have had to choose between caring for their children or continuing to work, and millions of dollars have been spent to prop up a system that was broken to begin with. We must build a childcare system that works equitably for all Virginians and, with a strong position, the League of Women Voters can be a strong voice in that process.

The Childcare Issue Group **ALSO welcomes additional league members to join the issue group** to advance this study and position the League to make a difference for children and families in Virginia for years to come.

For questions/interest:

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THANK YOU!

