

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF VIRGINIA



CHILD CARE ISSUE GROUP - CAUCUS FOR NEW POSITION

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A refresher on why we did the Study and it's design

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A refresher - Why we did this



Our previous position was insufficient.

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.

Today's issues (licensing barriers, staff pay and high turnover, not enough slots for infants & toddlers, inequitable access etc) go beyond those previously explored.



The LWV-VA can make a difference!

With a more complete position, the LWV-VA will be better equipped to weigh in on discussions that consider different policy solutions to address the childcare crisis.

Different policy solutions are under development in Virginia and the country but vary greatly in structure, perspective and cost

The vision that guided our study



Every parent, ESPECIALLY black and minority parents - is free of having to choose between keeping or getting promoted in a job or caring for their child



Every child care provider is free of having 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

A 3-phase study - What We Did

Phase 1: Explore - Understanding the Status Quo

1

- Consulted over 30 source documents and synthesized in a literature review
- Interviewed 41 community early education officials, providers and parents
- Identified cost implications of various care solutions
- Mapped other league's positions on childcare for comparison

Phase 2: Consider - What should we do differently?

2

- Brainstormed possible policy solutions from literature & survey responses
- Identified pros and cons considering cost, equity & ease of implementation
- Wrote a 20-page report which included 44 references and 5 Attachments
- Developed 10 consensus-questions which were considered by 13 local leagues

Phase 3: Recommend - what we are doing now

3

- Synthesized responses from local leagues
- Developed a revised position based on the study findings and comments from local leagues
- Present the revised position at the June 2023 Convention

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They Study explored child care through 4 elements





PARENTS need greater access to affordable care options

1. Cap copayments: Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that cap the amount of pay that any Virginia family would have to pay to access care for children aged 0-6 years? *Possible policies may include but are not limited to:*

- Cap copayments at 7% of income for all families (the recommended amount to meet the definition of “affordable”)
- Update the Virginia code to require that sufficient funding is appropriated to cover the difference in parent fees and the cost of care

2. Incentivize supply: Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that ensure sufficient supply of providers in all areas of the state? *Possible policies may include but are not limited to:*

- Offer grants, loans and technical assistance to child care entrepreneurs looking to establish new licensed centers or day homes where there is unmet need
- Expand state-funded preschool and after-school programs
- Adjust the local match requirements



PARENTS also need child care options that reflect their different realities

3. Diversify supply: Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that seek to understand and allocate sufficient resources to address different parents' care needs? *Possible policies may include but are not limited to:*

- Incentivize providers to expand hours
- Offer culturally appropriate information about child care options and costs to parents in their native language



CHILD CARE PROVIDERS need access to sustainable funding and qualified staff

4. Directly fund providers: Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that provide direct financial support to providers? *Possible policies may include but are not limited to:*

- Offer providers an annual grant based on an equity-adjustment formula that reflects a provider's ability to collect fees (or claim subsidies) from the families they serve

5. Collaborate with workforce development: Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that foster greater collaboration between the state's workforce development and ECCE systems? *Possible policies may include but are not limited to:*

- Jointly build and support career pathway programs that enable and support child care workers to advance from assistant teachers to program leaders



YOUNG CHILDREN need more access to high-quality, safe programs that meet diverse needs

6. Establish universal pre-K: Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for the creation of a free and universal preschool program for 3-and 4-year olds in Virginia even if this requires to be state-funded?

7. Require all providers to be licensed: Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that require, and provide sufficient support to help all child care providers become and remain licensed?

8. Honor childrens' diversity: Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that emphasizes diversity, equity and inclusion in early education assessments, curriculum design, educator training and professional development.



SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN need more access to affordable programs that meet diverse needs

9. Make programs more accessible and affordable: Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that make after-school programs more accessible and affordable? *Possible policies may include but are not limited to:*

- Directly fund more programs located in schools
- Explore the creation of a universal after-school program
- Establish a state-level child tax credit
- Underwrite recruitment and retention structure for after-school teachers
- Maintain robust data systems to continuously monitor and track program access

10. Increase program quality and equity: Should the LWV-VA support and advocate for policies that incentivize after-school programs to adopt quality and equity standards? *Possible policies may include but are not limited to:*

- Offer financial and non-financial incentives for programs to adopt standards (i.e teacher bonuses, public recognition, preferred points in grant competitions, technical assistance)
- Overlay data systems on access with programs adhering to quality and equity standards

Most local leagues found consensus on most questions

LOCAL LEAGUE	PARENTS			PROVIDERS		YOUNG CHILDREN (0-5)			SCHOOL CHILDREN (6-12)	
	1: Affordability	2: Accessibility	3: Equity	4: Sustainability	5: Viability	6: Accessibility	7: Quality, Health & Safety	8: Equity	9: Affordability & Access	10: Quality & Equity
Arlington & Alexandria	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes*	Yes	N/A
Charlottesville	No*	Yes	Yes	No*	Yes	No*	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fairfax	No Consensus*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	No Consensus	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*
Falls Church	No Consensus*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fredericksburg	Yes	Yes	Yes	No*	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Loudoun County	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lynchburg*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Montgomery County	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prince William Fauquier	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Richmond	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roanoke Valley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Hampton Roads	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	No Consensus*	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes*
Washington County	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes	Yes
Williamsburg	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes
TOTAL	9	13	13	11	13	11	12	13	13	12

* = Comments were included with the local league's response

Based on feedback from local leagues, the issue group revised our recommendations

- Clarification that the highest earning parents should not receive subsidies
- Clarification that the maximum fees a parent is responsible for should be tied to percentage of income rather than a fixed amount
- Removal of any reference to “mixed delivery” and a clarification that no public funds be spent on private pre-schools which is in conflict with the LWV’VA’s position that public funds should not be spend on private educational institutions
- Clarification that any support offered directly to providers should be tied to quality and should primarily be spent on raising teacher pay

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Proposed New Position - In Brief

“Support for state policies that promote quality child care that is affordable, accessible, and equitable In particular, we support policies that ensure all young children (0-5) receive safe, high-quality education and care consistent with their cultural and developmental needs, that all school-age children (6-12) have a safe, nurturing place to go after school until they can look after themselves, that all parents - especially minority and low-income parents - have access to affordable child care while they work, and that quality child care providers can remain operational.”



Proposed New Position - Longer Form



“To address affordability, accessibility and equity for PARENTS,

The state should provide:

- some form of financial assistance that caps family expenditures for child care at the level defined as affordable;
- funding and support to family child care homes, community-based centers and other providers to ensure sufficient supply of child care in all areas of the state;
- funding, incentives and guidance that enable local jurisdictions and licensed providers to meet different parents’ child care needs;
- [education to parents about quality child care](#) in ways that are accessible regardless of location, language, or culture;
- [tax relief to parents;](#)
- [incentives to employers offering child care benefits to employees; and matching local funds for those jurisdictions which help fund child care.”](#)

Proposed New Position - Longer Form



“To address sustainability and viability for PROVIDERS:

The state should:

- provide assistance to child care facilities in dealing with liability insurance;
- offer free training to care givers and other staff;
- increase collaboration between the state’s workforce development and early childhood and education systems to help providers identify and train new staff;
- fund providers using an equity adjusted formula so that those serving families with higher social vulnerability (based on income, demographics, location, English language etc.) receive higher amounts. Funds should primarily be spent on educator compensation. Continued funding should be tied to maintenance of or progress towards quality educational standards.

Proposed New Position - Longer Form



“To ensure access, health, safety and equity, for YOUNG CHILDREN (0-5)

The state should:

- provide, together with other levels of government, free and equitable public preschool for all children. There must be no decrease in the K-12 education budget to create this program and it must be consistent with the LWV-VA’s education position;
- mandate that there be licensing requirements for all child care, whether it is provided in homes or centers or other locations and whether it is full or part time. The only exception should be if the Caregiver is providing care for their own children (or those of a relative), and children from one other family;
- provide sufficient support to assist providers in becoming and remaining licensed;
- [have a role in monitoring an up-to- date listing of child care facilities;](#)
- require that all licensed providers that receive public funds adhere to adequate standards which should reflect those recommended by the United States Department of Health and honor childrens’ diversity in early education assessments, curriculum design, educator training and professional development;
- ensure that children with special physical, behavioral, emotional and language needs have the support they need to thrive.”

Proposed New Position - Longer Form



“To ensure affordable, accessible, equitable and quality care for SCHOOL-AGE-CHILDREN (6-12)

The state should:

- strengthen data measurement and tracking of available programs to understand gaps in access;
- fund, together with other levels of government, more afterschool programs in schools, more summer programs in communities, transportation to community-based afterschool programs,
- support staff recruitment and retention efforts;
- establish a state-level child tax credit; and
- explore the creation of a universal after-school program
- encourage and incentivize afterschool and summer programs to adopt quality and equity standards.

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What Questions do you have?



Please get in touch with questions or points of clarification.

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THANK YOU!

