

Chair Donate and Senators,

My name is Martin Fitzgerald, and I am writing today in strong support of Assembly Bill 185, which aims to expand access to family and group child care in Nevada. This legislation is important in addressing our state's growing childcare crisis.

Nevada faces a severe shortage of affordable, accessible childcare. Alarming, 72% of our state is classified as a *childcare desert*, and the cost of childcare often exceeds that of college tuition. Families are struggling, and the current limitations only make things worse.

AB185 provides a clear and necessary solution by protecting licensed in-home childcare operations within common-interest communities. It aligns Nevada with states like California, Colorado, and Washington, which have already enacted policies to support and promote home-based childcare. Expanding FCC and GCC is vital because it offers more flexible, affordable options for families — particularly important in Nevada's 24-hour economy — and at about 30% less cost than traditional childcare centers.

The bill will:

- Prohibit HOAs from restricting, fining, or limiting licensed in-home childcare services.
- Prevent discrimination in home sales or rentals based on the intent to operate licensed childcare.
- Allow renters to operate licensed childcare facilities and protect them from unfair eviction or rent increases due to childcare activities.

Family and group childcare services are licensed by the state, must meet strict health and safety requirements, and offer flexibility that traditional centers cannot. Family Child Care providers serve up to six children, while Group Child Care providers serve between seven and twelve children — both offering critical support to working families.

In short, AB185 is a practical, thoughtful measure that strengthens families, supports small businesses, and helps alleviate Nevada's childcare crisis. I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of AB185.

Thank you for your consideration.