



Chair Doñate and Members of the Committee:

Wonderschool envisions a future where every child has access to quality early care and education 5 minutes from home, no matter where they live.

In 2022 and 2023 Wonderschool worked with the State of Nevada to create more FCC programs across the state's child care deserts. In partnership with the Department of Welfare and Supportive Services, Las Vegas Urban League, and the Children's Cabinet, Wonderschool recruited hundreds of new providers and supported hundreds of existing providers. While our partnership resulted in a significant success: we expanded the availability of child care resulting in an estimated \$41 million economic impact according to the [Bipartisan Policy Center](#), many of the providers we recruited and trained faced significant barriers, and one of them was their HOA not allowing them to provide care for neighborhood children.

Every week we received distraught calls from potential providers who could not move forward in licensing to operate because their HOA will not allow it. One example was the registered nurse who could not open a specialty program that catered to medically fragile children; children who most centers do not have the skills or resources to support. Another was the new mom wanting to start her own business. Rather than opening her home to other infants, she now cares for her child by day and works the night shift.

Even while facing those barriers, we still had some potential providers try to work with their HOA to get an exception to provide care. Sometimes HOAs would acknowledge the need for child care in their communities but still refused to allow the person to provide child care for the families in the area.

Just based on the work we did the last few years, we estimate that Nevada is missing thousands of child care slots due to the un-cooperation of HOAs with the needs of their community. This causes unnecessary burdens on Nevada's workforce and employers, and strains families. Child care is provided in homes all over the country, including in neighborhoods with HOAs and there's no reason Nevada's families should face additional barriers to getting the child care they need.

Nevada is missing nearly 100k child care slots - another way to think of this number is Nevada has nearly 100k people who would go back to work if they could find appropriate child care.

Passing AB 185 will implement protections for homeowners and renters so they are able to operate FCCs. As a licensed FCC, providers must comply with all state and local regulations, including carrying an insurance policy and meeting minimum quality, health and safety expectations. This extends significant and appropriate protections for HOAs.

We urge you to pass AB 185 and reduce barriers for families to find the care they need.

We would love to reach back out to the providers we worked with in 2022 and 2023 who were not allowed to start providing child care in their home to see if they have any interest in trying again but we need AB 185 in place first.

The child care crisis in Nevada is real. There is an easy answer: provide protections for child care entrepreneurs by legislating their right to operate within their homes. This makes sense - for children, for working families, and for Nevada's economy as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

Emily Walton

Wonderschool