



## NAFCC Supports the Child Care Supply Improvement Act

**Salt Lake City (October 1, 2018):** Today, the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) issued a statement in support of the *Child Care Supply Improvement Act*, which calls for grants to states to build the supply of child care for working families by supporting providers directly.

Positive experiences, interactions and opportunities in a child’s time in child care – regardless of the type of child care arrangement - are essential for healthy child development and essential for working families to be reliable employees. The availability of licensed family child care is down 15% since 2011, and the numbers continue to decline when they should be rising to meet the needs of children and families.

“It is time for action, and family child care is part of the solution. The ideas in the *Child Care Supply Improvement Act* reflect NAFCC’s recommendations for how to improve experiences for children and families by directly investing in the providers that families count on each day,” said Bill Hudson, Chief Executive Officer, NAFCC.

NAFCC is pleased to endorse the *Child Care Supply Improvement Act* (S. 3520), introduced by Senator Tina Smith (D-MN), which calls for supply-building approaches based on a thoughtful and strategic community needs assessment:

- Facilities improvement loans and loan forgiveness to quality providers (including accreditation as a marker of quality to earn loan forgiveness)
- Pathways to licensure, supporting commitment to quality, and supporting small businesses
- Support for state administration and implementation of child care licensing and quality initiatives

“States are strategizing and making decisions about how to build the supply of child care. State approaches to licensing are the gateway to the family child care profession. Licensing is the foundation of quality, but the drive for quality has been challenging. The ideas in this legislation are concrete things that would make a real difference in my family child care program and across our community,” said Linda Schesso, President of the Minnesota Child Care Provider Information Network.

“To improve access to high quality child care, it is crucial to invest in the programs and people who care for children,” continued Schesso.

“Thank you to Senator Smith for hearing family child care providers in Minnesota. As stakeholders work to build the supply of child care in the states, we are thrilled that these recommendations are reflecting the needs of and the voices of providers across the country,” said Donna Fowler, President of the NAFCC Board of Directors.

Please visit [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org) for a detailed summary of the legislation and NAFCC’s federal policy agenda for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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### ***About family child care***

*Family child care is the preferred arrangement of many families, and a necessity across the country as well. Family child care is uniquely well-positioned to meet the needs of families often challenged to identify reliable child care options. This includes families with infants and toddlers, families needing care during non-traditional hours, military families, communities of color and immigrant families, families of children with special needs, and families in rural communities. Family child care is the business of child care and the practice of early care and education in the program provider’s home. The National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) identified one million paid providers caring for children in a*

home, caring for three million children from birth to age five in these settings. Professional family child care is one part of the much larger community of home-based child care arrangements that families count on. NSECE identified about 118,000 listed, paid providers caring for over 750,000 children ages birth through age five.

### **About NAFCC**

*The mission of the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is to support and leverage a nationwide network of providers and partners in expanding and promoting the power of family child care. NAFCC's priority is to build the supply of high-quality family child care to meet the needs of infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children; to support working families with reliable, affordable choices for child care arrangements that meet their needs; and to create crucial early learning opportunities right in our own neighborhoods. NAFCC has lead the family child care accreditation program for over 25 years. The standards are research-based and demonstrate principles of child growth and development as well as current best practices in the early childhood field. Accreditation is not just a mark of quality, but a demonstration of commitment to continuous quality improvement. State and local family child care associations are also providing crucial services and opportunities to the family child care community. NAFCC and affiliate associations offer peer networking among family child care providers, facilitate training, and play leadership roles as stakeholders in policy development and connecting policy to practice. For more information please go to [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org) or contact [policy@nafcc.org](mailto:policy@nafcc.org).*