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Public Policy Memo: Child Care Reform

Child care is not affordable. Low income families and families of color are often the ones that are having to bear the huge financial costs more than their counterparts. They are also subject to taking more risks in regards to quality of care for their child(ren) by having to find alternative care since they are unable to afford quality care. These alternative care may not always be safe but when one is coming from a place of survival, it may be their only option. Those that are in this situation often find that they are unable to make career decisions that would be a benefit to themselves or to their family. They are often having to negotiate being able to work or working to pay for child care and can afford nothing else. This should be seen as a social injustice since it tends to typically impact families of color more than others. All families should be able to get quality care for their child(ren) at an affordable cost.

Evaluation of Working Connections

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) is a subsidy program to help pay for child care. They often support low income families that need care and are participating within an approved activity. Child care providers must be licensed in order to receive payment from WCCC, for providing care. This helps ensure low income families have support for child care costs and are

getting quality care in the process. While it is a good benefit to those that meet the requirements, for those that don't it can leave a huge financial impact. Families not eligible for WCCC are typically undocumented, just above their income requirement and/or looking for work. While these families could be vulnerable and need assistance they are left to navigate finding affordable child care on their own with limited support. Families have been known to ask for a reduction in pay in order to keep their WCCC subsidy because they know they would not be able to work without it. Circumstances like this often leave families making hard decisions that have lasting impact on their child(ren) and quality of life.

Recommendation: Universal child care policy was drafted by the office of Elizabeth Warren. This policy would allow for all families to be able to afford quality care at an affordable cost. This policy ensures that those who are low income receive care at zero costs but those at a higher income pay at an affordable rate.(Office of U.S Senator Elizabeth Warren, 2019) It also supports local child care organizations to help ensure their businesses are sustained in the process. I believe having a policy like this will allow for families to live better lives overall and ensure children are safe and have access to quality education.

Reference List:

Office of Elizabeth Warren. "Universal Child Care Policy Brief." *The Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren*, 2019.

https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Universal_Child_Care_Policy_Brief_2019.pdf