

January 16, 2025

Dr. Lisa Roy
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Early Childhood
710 S Ash Street
Denver, Colorado 80222

RE: Comments in support of proposed Colorado Child Care Assistance Program rule to implement HB24-1223

Dear Dr. Roy:

We supported [HB24-1223](#) and were glad to see it become law because inaccessible and unaffordable childcare holds many small businesses back. Small Business Majority's [research](#) found that a lack of childcare for their own children created an impediment for entrepreneurs to start their business (58%) and grow their business (59%). Additionally, the survey found that due to employees' childcare issues, small businesses have had an employee quit (30%), job candidates turn down an offer (30%) and even had to eventually fire an employee who was routinely absent (16%). Therefore, we support the proposed Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) rules to implement HB24-1223.

These rules will simplify the application process by establishing a uniform statewide application process. This will reduce the administrative burden for working parents, many of whom are small business owners or small business employees.

Additionally, the rules will help childcare providers enrolled in CCCAP, many of whom are small business owners. Payment structures for providers will be paid based on enrollment and not on attendance. Providers also will be paid a weekly rate in advance. These changes will help them both better forecast their revenues and keep more money in their pockets. In turn, this will help vital childcare programs remain open in local Colorado communities.

We are grateful for the opportunity to submit comments in support of the proposed rules to implement HB24-1223. Improving access to CCCAP is critical to helping our childcare providers, small businesses and working families thrive.

Sincerely,

Hunter Nelson
Colorado Director, Small Business Majority