

California SB 234 (Skinner) **Keeping Kids Close to Home Act**

What does SB 234 do?

SB 234 increases the availability of family child care so children in all our communities can receive quality care close to home.

Why do California families need SB 234?

Finding safe, affordable child care close to home shouldn't have to feel like winning the lottery, but for too many parents, it does. Statewide, licensed child care is available for only 23% of children with working parents, and the numbers keep getting worse.

All too often, families are forced to cobble together situations that lack the nurturing, home environment they want for their children. This is a missed opportunity for quality care and early learning in California, especially for our babies and toddlers.

For parents, knowing your baby is with a warm, nurturing caregiver is everything. Family child care providers are the primary source of care for babies and toddlers, offering warm, enriching care close to home.

How does SB 234 work?

SB 234 equalizes the local permitting process for family child care homes that care for up to 14 children, closing loopholes that have led to an uneven application by cities and burdensome local regulations.

SB 234 clarifies that family child care can operate in all types of residential settings close to where families live, in all communities.

SB 234 updates housing protections for family child care providers so families have the loving, home-like environment they want for their children.

Why we must pass SB 234?

Nearly 40 years ago, California enacted the Child Day Care Facilities Act so kids and parents have quality child care close to home, in every community. But the law has not kept pace with the needs of modern families.

There's a critical shortage of child care statewide, especially for our babies and toddlers, and while families scramble to find affordable and reliable child care, many local providers have been forced to close their doors.

To meet the needs of today's families, SB 234 equalizes and updates state law to encourage and support child care close to home, so parents can work and children can thrive, immediately and in the future.