



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | JANUARY 10, 2023

Welcome to the latest Child Care Aware Legislative Update. This narrative update, along with our Bill Tracker, will be posted each Tuesday (reflecting activity through the previous Friday) on the [Child Care Aware of Minnesota Website](#).

Each week we will provide action that has been taken at the committee level or on the floor, a brief overview of bills that have been introduced, and any other pertinent news related to early care and education and school-age care issues. If you have additions to recommend to the bill tracker, please contact [Ann McCully](#).

OVERVIEW

The 2023 Legislative session kicked off on Tuesday, January 2, with the swearing-in of new members and the first House and Senate Floor sessions of the biennium.

Legislative leaders in both the House and Senate flagged issues such as paid family and medical leave and support for families in accessing child care as among their top priorities this session. Please see the initial bill introductions from week one below.

In his inaugural comments, Governor Walz also called attention to the issue of early care and education and family support, offering the following comments:

“...Kids carry their whole lives with them into the classroom. They carry their hope, smarts, wisdom, and humor. They also carry the stress of hunger, housing, mental health, and family challenges that stand in the way of success. And we know their future starts taking shape long before they reach the classroom – that starting at birth, their future, and their opportunities, start to unfold. Early childhood education, health, and economic security help set the course of their young lives.

My mission as governor is simple: make Minnesota the best state in the country for kids. This is what I have charged my team to do – to make our state the best place to raise a family, and I’m proud to say we have made historic strides. In the coming weeks, I will announce a bold new proposal to lift up children, youth, and families in Minnesota and put them at the center of our state budget.

While success in the classroom is paramount, we have more work to do to ensure every family has access to affordable health care, child care, early education, economic security, and paid family and medical leave. We have to invest in every child and family, to give our young people opportunity in and out of school. These critical resources shape the lives of the next generation and ensure that families want to call Minnesota home.”

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Some House and Senate committees held their initial meetings this week; others will convene during the week of January 9. During the first two weeks of a new biennium, much of the focus is on introducing new members and staff to each other and their committees' work, including the scope and history of the issues they are charged with addressing.

While there has not yet been committee action on bills related to early care and education, the newly re-named House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee (formerly the Early Childhood Committee) met on January 5 to hear a presentation from Dr. Krishnan Subrahmanian, MD, MPhil, DTM. Dr. Subrahmanian is a Hennepin County pediatrician who outlined the need for supports in the earliest years.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

The following bills were introduced during the week of January 2-6. For more information about bills introduced to date or to see all of the bills introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

- Paid family and medical leave provided, and money appropriated (HF 2-Richardson/SF 2-Mann)
- Dependent care credit expansion and great start child care credit establishment (HF 9-Kotyza-Witthuhn/SF 9-Hauschild)
- Child care assistance rates modified (HF 13- Keeler/SF 14-Wiklund)
- Earned sick and safe time provision and appropriation (HF 19-Olson, L./SF 34-Pappas)
- Full-service community schools funding provided, and money appropriated (HF 21-Vang/SF 20-Kunesh)
- Individual income and corporate franchise provisions modified, and federal tax provisions conformity provided (HF 31-Gomez/SF 25-Rest)
- Pregnant patient right established to have a designated support person present while receiving health care (HF 52-Richardson)
- Maternal death studies conducted by the commissioner of health expanded to include maternal morbidity (HF 53-Richardson)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Week of January 23-** Governor's budget released
- **March 22-** Advocacy Day for Children