

Strengthen Local Workforce Development Boards

Support HB 1979 (Raney/Plesa/Bumgarner) and SB 1844 (Blanco)

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is responsible for the stewardship of over \$7 billion in FY2022, with over 80% of those dollars tagged for child care services programs.¹ Primarily federal funds, they are distributed via 28 Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs).

LWDBs have critical responsibilities to help low-income families **access child care services, allocate federal child care funding,** and support local initiatives to **improve the quality and sustainability of child care** in their regions. Boards in different communities have adopted innovative approaches to serve eligible families and child care programs, however, state policy has not evolved to maximize effectiveness and improve outcomes.

HB 1979/SB 1844 would:

Provide performance target customization: LWDBs are funded based on only one state-required performance target – the average number of children served by scholarship per day. The target does not account for the higher costs associated with infant care, high-quality care, care in child care deserts, or care during non-traditional hours. **Increasing target flexibility will allow local boards the option to allocate funding for specific data-driven needs in their regions.**



Publish transparent and consistent data: The Texas Workforce Commission collects a lot of data from LWDBs regarding the provision of child care. However, the collection and reporting practices of Boards can vary, which leads to stakeholders struggling to assess the effectiveness of services and investments. **Creating a standard for publishing data will result in better-informed decision-making for children and families.**



Expand Boards' Child Care Expertise: Across the state, LWDB membership ranges from 24 to 50 members and current statute only requires one member to have child care expertise. On average, this means child care expertise makes up <4% of the total membership, despite child care funding making up one of the largest portions of each LWDB's budget. **Requiring boards' membership composition to increase representation of members with child care expertise will better inform the use of taxpayer funds.**



Ensure websites have accessible information: The amount and quality of information on websites for parents and providers varies dramatically across the state. Some include details about the importance of quality child care and the TRS rating system with instructions on how to apply for subsidy scholarships, while others lack the ability for parents to track their applications and are missing basic contact information to direct their questions. **Consumer-friendly websites will better serve parents and providers with the basic information they need to access quality child care in their region.**



HB 1979/SB 1844 Supporters



¹ Texas Workforce Commission FY2022 Budget