

☛ **03hr\_AC-CF\_ab470\_pt01**



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

**2003-04**

(session year)

**Assembly**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Children and Families (AC-CF)**

### **COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

### **INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  - (**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  - (**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (May 2012)



## Vote Record Committee on Children and Families

Date: 1-15-04

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

AB 470 SB \_\_\_\_\_ Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_  
 AJR \_\_\_\_\_ SJR \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment \_\_\_\_\_  
 AR \_\_\_\_\_ SR \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt 1  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

Be recommended for:  
 Passage     Adoption     Confirmation     Concurrence     Indefinite Postponement  
 Introduction     Rejection     Tabling     Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<b>Representative Steve Kestell, Chair</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Bonnie Ladwig</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Sheryl Albers</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Leah Vukmir</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Christine Sinicki</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Mark Miller</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Shirley Krug</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____

Motion Carried       Motion Failed

## Vote Record Committee on Children and Families

Date: 1-15-04

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

AB 470

SB \_\_\_\_\_

Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_

AJR \_\_\_\_\_

SJR \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment \_\_\_\_\_

AR \_\_\_\_\_

SR \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

Be recommended for:

- Passage     Adoption     Confirmation     Concurrence     Indefinite Postponement  
 Introduction     Rejection     Tabling     Nonconcurrence

Committee Member

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<b>Representative Steve Kestell, Chair</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Representative Sheryl Albers</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Leah Vukmir</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Christine Sinicki</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Mark Miller</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Representative Shirley Krug</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals:    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



# OCONTO COUNTY



*A Place For You*

## Department of Health and Human Services

*..... promoting healthy and responsible families.*

501 Park Avenue  
Oconto, WI 54153-1612

920-834-7000  
920-834-7045 (no voice response TDD)  
920-834-6889 FAX

September 11, 2003

Steve Kestell, Chairperson  
Attn: Committee on Children and Families  
State Capitol  
Room 17 West  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Chairperson Kestell:

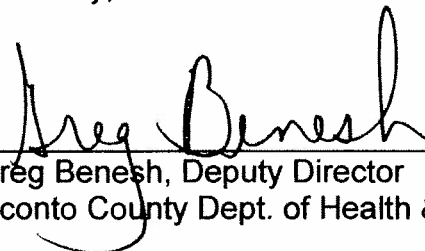
RE: 2003 Assembly Bill 470

This bill falls short of protecting children from unscrupulous unlicensed child day care providers. As written, non-licensed caregivers "may request" to be listed on the DHFS registry. Because this is a voluntary registry, only those caregivers who don't have disqualifying circumstances would request to be listed. Those caregivers who are inappropriate would choose not to have background checks completed by the State.

I would support a bill like this if it was a mandatory registry and if it would be appropriately monitored and maintained. As written, this bill will be ineffective. It won't protect vulnerable children.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Benesh, Deputy Director  
Oconto County Dept. of Health & Human Services

GB/jmz




October 28, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you to request your support for Bill # AB 470. The Child Care Registry for unregulated providers is a voluntary registry of persons who provide care and supervision of children but are not State Licensed or County Certified.

I am a single parent who works second shift. Because of my work hours, I rely on a variety of arrangements including friends and neighbors who are not State Licensed or County Certified. I feel the Child Care Registry, including background checks, will help me make a more informed choice when considering a potential child care provider for my children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Smith".

Lisa Smith





October 29, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support for bill AB-470 (Child Care Registry for Unlicensed Providers), which provides a resource for parents who are using daycare providers outside of licensed centers. It is my hope that if this is passed, that tragedies can be avoided-tragedies like the one that my family experienced.

In 1996, my husband and I chose a county certified daycare provider for our son Trenton, then twelve weeks old. Prior to contracting with this provider, we did criminal background checks using a private investigator, choosing to check both her and her and her husband. Everything we did came back clear. We were comfortable with our choice, feeling that if there was something to uncover, we would have. We further felt that because the providers husband was a high school teacher, that he probably had had background checks before. We wish we had been right.

One day in March, I received a phone call from the daycare provider saying that Trenton had suddenly become ill and an ambulance had taken him to the hospital. The next time we saw our son was when the ambulance personnel were wheeling his tiny little body into the hospital on a big white stretcher. He was gray and lethargic, and they were holding an oxygen mask over his otherwise angelic face. A short time later, he was diagnosed with Shaken Baby Syndrome. The person that we had trusted our son's life with, his "care" provider had shaken him to the point that the little bones in his legs snapped, and his brain was permanently damaged. We were told he may not survive.

Nothing can prepare parents for this news-especially parents who had worked so hard to avoid this type of a situation by carefully screening the provider. We later found out that she has a criminal history including robbery. Her husband a then school teacher and now school administrator in Wisconsin, also has a criminal history. You can only begin to imagine our shock, we had done everything, had been so diligent. . .

This bill if implemented, would provide a for a program similar to California's very succesful "Trustline" . If it had been available when Trenton was born, our family would not have suffered, our little boy would never had been shaken and beaten, almost to death.

Please consider what this could do for our state. If parents are aware of any type of criminal background, they will not entrust their child to that person. It will save the state money as the number of children abused by providers will fall. Most importantly, it will save lives, the lives of innocent children, who otherwise do not have a voice.

Sincerely,

*Wendi G. Schreiter*

Wendi G. Schreiter  
W6751 Sunnyvale Lane  
Greenville, WI 54942



October 30, 2003

To whom it may concern:

Re: Voluntary Child Care Provider Registry

I am a parent of young children and am very concerned about the quality and availability of child care. I have had to search for child care several times in the past few years. It is always a real challenge! I have a certain amount per month that I can afford to spend on child care and it's very difficult to find a licensed or certified provider that I can afford. So I have resorted to looking in the classifieds for a provider. I realize that there are good providers out there that are not licensed or certified, but I have no way of knowing about their background. I do check the references, but would really like a way to find out their history.

I heard about the Voluntary Child Care Provider Registry and feel that it would really benefit me and many other parents like me in search of child care. This bill should definitely be passed so that parents have another avenue to assure them of a safe environment for their children. I would love to be home with my children, but it is simply not possible. The Registry would help ease my mind about the child care decisions that I must make.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important bill!



Connie Frey  
Concerned Parent



**Testimony of  
State Representative Steve Wieckert  
Regarding  
AB 470 – Voluntary Childcare Registry  
Before the  
Assembly Committee on Children and Families**

**October 30, 2003**

Chairman Kestell, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding a public hearing today on a bill that I believe will help ensure that Wisconsin's children are in the hands of safe childcare providers.

According to the Wisconsin Child Care Resource & Referral Network, in 2001 more than 3 out of 4 children in Wisconsin under the age of 5 spent time in education and care settings outside their home. We as legislators, along with parents, must ensure that these children are placed in safe and nurturing settings. However, it is extremely difficult for parents to find out if a childcare provider is chronically unsafe when the childcare providers are not registered. We need to make it easier for parents to make safe choices on behalf of their children, because the children at these dangerous childcare centers are unable to protect themselves.

Under current law, someone who is compensated for providing day care for four or more children must obtain a license from DHFS to operate a day care center. Also, DHFS must perform a background check on all caregivers in a licensed day

care center. However, this law does not apply to those who are not considered licensed day care providers, including those who care for 3 children or less, baby-sitters, nannies and au pairs. The lack of background checks in these areas can lead to children being unknowingly placed in the hands of dangerous childcare providers.

For example, a Fitchburg day care provider was charged with shaking, throwing, and pinching shut the mouth and nose of a 4-month-old girl, an 8-month-old boy and a 1-year-old boy. The girl suffered a fractured skull and retinal hemorrhaging. According to the Assistant District Attorney who handled this case, "If there had been a little more force, we might have been here on a homicide." The child-care provider was sentenced in February to 14 years in prison.

Such incidents, where childcare providers are allowed to operate unchecked with harmful consequences, occur throughout the state. A 3-year-old child in the care of a Madison day-care center wandered out into East Towne Boulevard in rush-hour traffic. A 3-year-old girl from another Madison area childcare center was left behind in a van in the 83-degree heat during a field trip to the Vilas zoo. A teacher at an Oregon childcare center dislocated a 2-year-old's elbow, and neither the center director nor the parents were notified. It is unacceptable that a childcare provider should slip through the cracks and be allowed to care for children in an unsafe manner.

All children need and deserve to be in the hands of qualified childcare providers. Individuals and companies that provide childcare services in many cases have to be licensed and placed on a DHFS registry. However, in some cases, when a childcare provider only provides care for a small number of children (less than 4), they do not need to be accredited, and are not placed on the registry.

AB 470 allows childcare providers who are not required to be licensed to voluntarily request review in order to be placed on the DHFS registry. In this way, a parent selecting this provider would then know that some background checks have been completed. This bill is supported by The Wisconsin Childcare Resource Network, and DHFS reports that an \$18.36 fee per background check could cover the costs of maintaining the voluntary childcare registry.

Many parents would like to know information about the qualifications and background of the childcare providers they entrust their children to. This bill allows for a childcare provider to voluntarily choose to be reviewed and placed on the DHFS registry, so that parents may know that the childcare provider has passed a background check. This brings credibility to the childcare provider and comfort and security to the parents.

Thank you again for holding a hearing on AB 470. I believe that this bill will lend credibility to those childcare providers who voluntarily request to be put on the



registry, and will also help ensure that children are cared for in safe environments by quality individuals, which will bring security and peace-of-mind to many parents who utilize the necessary resource of childcare while they are at work. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.



## **Testimony on AB470 Child Care Bill DRAFT**

George Hagenauer  
2200 Dahlk Circle  
Springdale/Verona 53593

608-845-9651  
[yellowkd@terra.com.net](mailto:yellowkd@terra.com.net)

I have worked in a support role in the child care field for about thirteen years. In most of those years, I have seen a child die, be sexually molested or seriously injured in predominately unregulated child care usually in rural communities in our 5 county service area.

As such the work you've undertaken in terms of looking at how to reduce problems in unregulated child care is an issue that is very important to me. However I have concerns about the effectiveness of the new proposed registry in addressing the core problem related to improving the safety of unregulated care.

### **A NEW REGISTRY OR A BETTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM?**

I question the need at this point to create a whole new classification of care. Child care already has a complicated mix of regulations which tend to confuse parents looking for care. Adding one more seems to add to the confusion. This looks like setting up something very similar to the provisional care category in certification only within state licensing. Provisional Certification is voluntary and the guidelines (with the exception of a renewal with criminal and other background checks every 2 years- a better schedule than the proposed 4) are very similar to the proposed registry guidelines. If we create the Registry it would mean we would have two sets of regulations statewide related to providers with no training. If the concern is that this doesn't regulate nannies or au pairs that could be added to certification as an in home care option. We currently do this on occasion for special cases in Wisconsin Shares. It would not be hard to create in home care as a certification option.

One problem with provisional care is that it is not uniformly administered statewide with a number of counties seeming to not offer it. Attached is a chart showing that a number of counties have no provisional care providers. This is odd given that the average is about 25% of any counties certified providers are provisional. The fact is that some counties just don't allow provisional care and that many counties will not (or delay for months) certifying trained providers who are not serving Wisconsin Shares parents. Child care food programs regularly report these problems with certification in many counties.

There are counties, most notably Dane, that already provisionally certify anyone who requests it. It does not make sense to set up a separate system and another category for parents to figure out if a very similar system already exists and is funded by the state. I would do a statewide review of provisional care and how well it has worked (how many children that have been killed or injured in it, stability of providers, etc.). This would be the best way (if the data exists) to evaluate what the impact would be of increasing the number of provisionally certified providers or creating a new registry. Provisional certification is pretty minimal but the on site visit /safety check would provide some additional checks beyond what is required under the proposed registry. The key difference if you followed this approach would be certifiers would have to certify (provisional or fully) anyone who applied and met the criteria as opposed to the more limited approach followed in many counties today.

### **INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BACKGROUND CHECKS:**

I don't think criminal and social service background checks would have saved any of the children that have died in our service area during the past several years. The cases were all accidents often related to a lack of knowledge about safety or due to the provider being isolated and overwhelmed. The saddest case was the woman who accidentally killed a baby. She didn't own up to doing it and the grieving parents were put through a long child abuse investigation before it was determined that the provider had killed the child. Many people from her church showed up to protest when she was sentenced to prison.

The background check system does provide some useful information and does deter some people from doing care. It's overall impact however is pretty minimal due to the rehab option within the law if a provider is denied. Under foster care there are a number of criminal or social service background check findings that bar you from doing foster care. Under child care there are none- anything can be rehabbed. I would suggest reading some files on providers who have been regulated with rehab. You might be surprised at what you will find. I would suggest that if rehab is not going to be reformed that a rehabbed provider have the areas of concern listed on the web where parents can review it. Parents should have the right to know that the registered certified or licensed provider served time for knifing another adult or some other serious crime. Currently they figure the system is screening these providers out with criminal record checks when often it isn't due to how we use rehab. A review of the rehab guidelines is especially critical if this system is going to be the prime means of regulating nannies or other people who would go into the family's home. The current regulations regarding criminal records background checks focus on crimes related to children. As such a past history related to theft is not a major concern under the rules and commonly dealt with through rehab. Obviously a criminal record related to theft becomes for more important when the provider is caring for children in the child's as opposed to the provider's home.

Doing child care as a job is currently treated by the state as a right. It should be viewed more as a privilege.

### **THE REGISTRY AS PART OF A MASTER DATABASE**

If this was done via the provisional certification the structure would be integrated into the joint provider file at the state level. This is a project working to create one provider management and information system , as part of the computer program that funds Wisconsin Shares. We currently have at least 3 departments involved in regulating, monitoring or funding early childhood education and care- DHFS, DWD and DPI. This is not very efficient and can be costly. For instance if a family child care provider changes their regulation- that also changes their reimbursement rate under Wisconsin Shares. As such delays in the Shares system knowing about changes can translate into overexpenditures. The solution is integrating the regulation management systems and the Shares payment system into one big database.

The certification management system has already been completed. The intent is to have licensing also included but there has been delays due to a lack of money to do the licensing component (part of the overall cost of the database is funded through a federal grant. The ability to have the grant cover part of the licensing database improvements is time-limited.) If a "registry" is created as opposed to using provisional care, it should somehow relate to this system. It's critical that revoked and approved providers whether licensed or certified be all on one interrelated database so that certifiers can check easily if a provider has been revoked by licensing and vice versa. This is one strategy that may have saved the life of one of the children who died in unregulated care since I've been at 4-C.

### **INVESTIGATING COMPLAINTS:**

The major cost of this new system will be following up on complaints against the registered providers. Currently 4-C has 5 staff working with about 400 provisionally or fully certified providers. One of those staff devotes all of her time to investigating complaints and working to close providers with serious problems. This does not of course include the cost of county lawyers , administrative law judges and the occasional situation like this year when we ended up hiring a lawyer for \$3000 to shut a provider down. Our system is the closest in the state to what you are proposing- a system that allows anyone to apply. As such I would expect that every 400 providers registered will generate enough complaints to require a full time licenser to investigate complaints related to those providers.

If the system is to mean anything the complaints will need to be investigated. A major weakness in the current system is that every complaint against an unregulated provider is not always investigated with a home visit. As such many marginal child care providers just drop their regulation when they start having problems because they realize that there would be less chance of an investigation if they were unregulated. The best way to increase safety in child care in Wisconsin would be to investigate

complaints against unregulated providers and put out of business ones that are over numbers, or have serious health or safety violations.

We need to address the on going problem of dangerous unregulated care in this state. I would urge you to rethink your proposal so it will have the maximum impact on the problem without setting up yet another new system. Resources are very scarce and we have critical problems that need to be addressed in our regulatory system. Please use the resources you have to strengthen the state's ability to protect children in care.

County 2002	# new provisional certified family child care	# provisional certified family child care closed	Ratio Changed to opened	# certified family child care	# provisional family child care	Total	%provisional
Adams	3	2	67%	6	4	10	40%
Ashland	0	0	NA	58	3	61	5%
Barron	4	4	100%	35	5	40	13%
Bayfield	2	1	50%	30	9	39	23%
Brown	9	6	67%	12	12	24	50%
Buffalo	8	4	50%	14	10	24	42%
Burnett	0	4	-400%	18	7	25	28%
Calumet	5	5	100%	9	6	15	40%
Chippewa	14	17	121%	22	10	32	31%
Clark	5	3	60%	9	8	17	47%
Columbia	0	0	NA	23	0	23	0%
Crawford	0	0	NA	12	0	12	0%
Dane	70	94	134%	266	143	409	35%
Dodge	2	0	0%	19	4	23	17%
Door	0	0	NA	4	0	4	0%
Douglas	0	0	NA	49	4	53	8%
Dunn	0	0	NA	15	0	15	0%
Eau Claire	41	43	105%	84	33	117	28%
Florence	0	0	NA	0	1	1	100%
Fond du Lac	7	4	57%	14	17	31	55%
Forest	3	0	0%	33	6	39	15%
Grant	2	1	50%	38	3	41	7%
Green	0	0	NA	15	1	16	6%
Green Lake	4	1	25%	8	6	14	43%
Iowa	2	0	0%	15	3	18	17%
Iron	0	0	NA	15	0	15	0%
Jackson	0	0	NA	22	0	22	0%
Jefferson	0	0	NA	14	2	16	13%
Juneau	2	5	250%	18	3	21	14%
Kewaunee	0	0	NA	124	32	156	21%
Kenosha	9	0	0%	2	1	3	33%
La Crosse	29	22	76%	158	38	196	19%
Lafayette	0	0	NA	9	0	9	0%
Langlade	5	3	60%	12	4	16	25%
Lincoln	5	4	80%	19	4	23	17%
Manitowoc	0	1	-100%	11	0	11	0%
Marathon	42	37	88%	130	49	179	27%
Marinette	1	3	300%	8	5	13	38%
Marquette	5	1	20%	8	8	16	50%
Menominee	0	0	NA	6	1	7	14%
Milwaukee	91	110	121%	1160	257	1417	18%
Monroe	2	3	150%	20	1	21	5%
Oconto	16	12	75%	25	21	46	46%
Oneida	0	0	NA	3	4	7	57%
Outagamie	9	19	211%	29	16	45	36%
Ozaukee	4	3	75%	16	4	20	20%
Pepin	0	0	NA	6	0	6	0%
Pierce	9	2	22%	27	12	39	31%

<b>Polk</b>	6	2	33%	47	15	62	24%
<b>Portage</b>	8	1	13%	33	9	42	21%
<b>Price</b>	1	0	0%	31	3	34	9%
<b>Racine</b>	23	6	26%	232	52	284	18%
<b>Richland</b>	4	0	0%	16	7	23	30%
<b>Rock</b>	4	5	125%	67	24	91	26%
<b>Rusk</b>	3	0	0%	20	6	26	23%
<b>Sauk</b>	7	3	43%	37	6	43	14%
<b>Sawyer</b>	2	0	0%	24	65	89	73%
<b>Shawano</b>	4	1	25%	6	9	15	60%
<b>Sheboygan</b>	2	4	200%	44	5	49	10%
<b>St. Croix</b>	1	0	0%	20	2	22	9%
<b>Taylor</b>	1	2	200%	12	2	14	14%
<b>Trempealeau</b>	26	23	88%	57	22	79	28%
<b>Vernon</b>	2	1	50%	4	1	5	20%
<b>Vilas</b>	0	0	NA	4	0	4	0%
<b>Waiworth</b>	0	0	NA	30	0	30	0%
<b>Washburn</b>	0	2	-200%	16	3	19	16%
<b>Washington</b>	3	3	100%	19	11	30	37%
<b>Waukesha</b>	12	7	58%	35	12	47	26%
<b>Waupaca</b>	3	4	133%	9	2	11	18%
<b>Waushara</b>	2	0	0%	9	4	13	31%
<b>Winnebago</b>	27	18	67%	65	31	96	32%
<b>Wood</b>	36	28	78%	107	52	159	33%
<b>Total</b>	587	524	89%	3594	1100	4694	23%





Testimony on AB-470 Voluntary Child Care Provider Registry  
LRB Number 03-0850/1

Judith Olson  
W3222 Lochbur Lane  
Appleton, WI 54913  
920-734-0966  
[jolson.ccr@tds.net](mailto:jolson.ccr@tds.net)

For the past 17 years I have worked in the child care industry to improve the quality of child care services. The supply and demand for child care in the tri-county area where I live and work, we have a shortage of regulated slots for 8,000 children with parents in the workforce who do not have access to regulated child care.

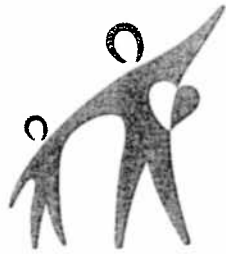
The proposed bill AB-470 (voluntary child care provider registry) would be a resource for parents hiring a nanny or babysitter. To pass a background check means everyone in the household over age 12 will have no disqualifying criminal convictions or substantiated child abuse.

I believe this is a good idea and a worthwhile effort, however, I also know it will need to be parent initiated and efforts will be needed to promote and provide parents with information on this process. Existing unregulated child care providers may not take the initiative to be a part of this system, therefore parent involvement will be greatly needed.

I support this concept but caution committee members to review all possible options on how this registry system will be delivered and funded. I suggest that you consider taking bids to solicit the best possible agency to offer such a service.

Your consideration for the voluntary child care provider registry will have a positive impact on the future of our children. Your highest support for such a system is greatly appreciated.

For your review, attached is a fact sheet from TrustLine, California's Background Check for In-home Child Care created in 1987 by the California Legislature.



# TrustLine

California's Background Check for In-Home Child Care

## Fact Sheet 1-800-822-8490

- What is TrustLine?** TrustLine was created by the California Legislature in 1987 and is a powerful resource for parents hiring a nanny or babysitter. TrustLine is California's registry of in-home child care providers who have passed a background screening. All caregivers listed with TrustLine have been cleared through a fingerprint check of records at the California Department of Justice. This means they have no disqualifying criminal convictions or substantiated child abuse reports in California.
- Administration** TrustLine is a child protection program of the State of California and the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. The California Department of Social Services and the California Department of Justice assist in managing and distributing the information.
- Program Highlights**
- \* TrustLine is the only child care registry in California with access to the most up-to-date and detailed databases at the California Department of Justice and the FBI.
  - \* TrustLine is effective. Its database, which is updated continuously, screens out individuals who have been convicted of murder, manslaughter, child molestation, assault with a deadly weapon, willful child cruelty and other crimes. Thousands of individuals with criminal records have been denied a listing on the registry.
  - \* All employment agencies are required by law to register their caregivers with TrustLine upon placement. Parents should call TrustLine to make sure the employment agency has registered their caregiver with TrustLine.
- Easy to Use** Parents can check if a provider is listed on TrustLine by calling 1-800-822-8490 and giving the provider's full name, driver's license number or other approved identification.
- Easy to Register** Child care providers complete an application from TrustLine and send it to the California Department of Social Services along with two sets of fingerprints (used to check CA Department of Justice and FBI records) and appropriate fees. If there are no disqualifying California or FBI criminal convictions or substantiated child abuse reports, the provider's name is added to the registry.
- Information** The general public can receive more information about TrustLine by calling 800-822-8490 or logging on at [www.trustline.org](http://www.trustline.org). News media or program sponsors should contact Cindy Mall at the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network at 415-882-0234.

**TrustLine: 1-800-822-8490 • <http://www.trustline.org>**

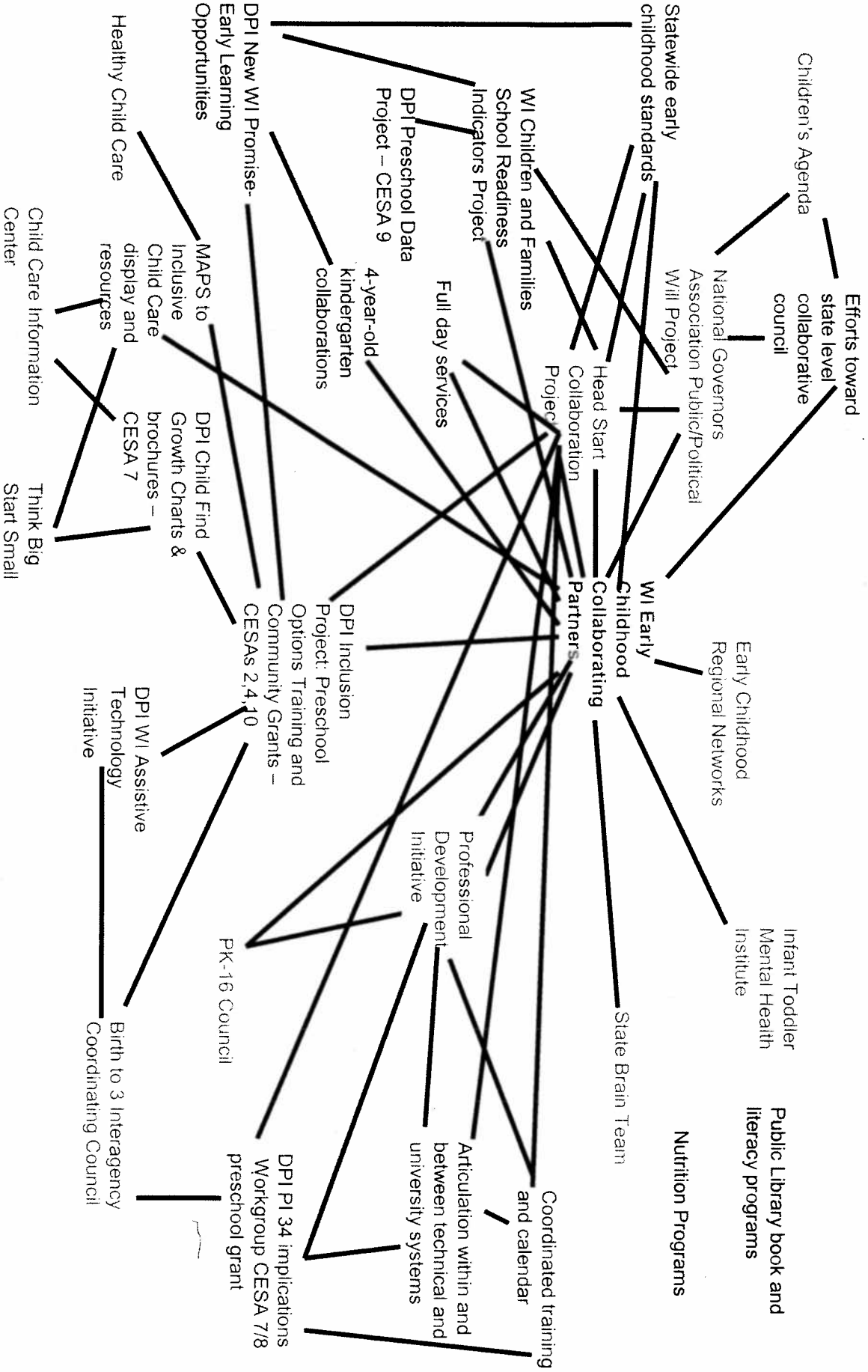
A Child Protection Program of the State of California and California Child Care Resource & Referral Network

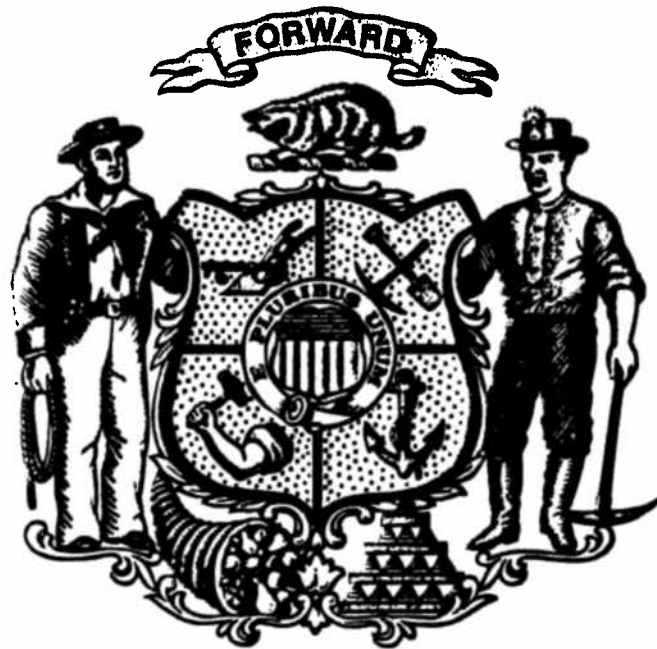


# A View Point on WI Early Childhood Collaborations

Child Care Council

**TYPES OF COLLABORATIONS: Councils & Collaborative Groups, Professional Development, Serving Children with Special Needs & Disabilities, Quality & Infrastructure, and Public Awareness**





We have attached our signatures below to support bill **AB-470** (Voluntary Child Care Registry). The Child Care Registry for unregulated providers is a voluntary registry of persons who provide child care and supervision of children within the legal limits without obtaining a State License or County Certification, but who have had a criminal background check. We feel that the Child Care Registry, including criminal background checks, will assist families in making an informed decision when considering an unregulated child care provider for their children

Name:	Address:	Date:
1 Lisa Amich	116 acres Ct. Appleton, WI	12/1/03
2 <del>David Vandenberg</del>	<del>733 Woodhart #5 Ashkosh, WI</del>	<del>1/6/04</del>
3 Kathy Kedar	3131 N. Spicewood Ln Appleton	1/6/04
4 Micco Vandenberg	832 Jefferson St. Menasha	1-6-04
5 <del>Tiffany Ziff</del>	<del>528 6<sup>th</sup> St. Menasha</del>	<del>1-6-04</del>
6 Mary Kay Hoyt	12523 Melody Ln, Waupaca	1-6-04
7 Kerry Murphy	1906 E. Calumet St. Appleton	01/06/04
8 Shelley Long	W6826 Hazelnut Lane Appleton	1-6-04
9 Bonnie Jensen	820 Rundquist Way, Kimberly	1-6-04
10 Mary Beth Latato	1360 Bayou Ln. Neenah	1-6-04
11 Tonnie Strong	1789 Sanctuary Ct. App.	1-6-04
12 Kathy Lathrop	1000 Taylor St apt 4 Little Chute, WI	1-6-04
13 Kristy Hartman Begun	2596 W. Palisades Dr. Menasha	1-6-04
14 <del>Jill Johnson</del>	<del>N4417 Sandstone St Appleton.</del>	<del>1-6-04</del>
15 E. Smith	177 Langdon St. Maunson, WI	7/6/04
16 Stephanie Cloud	130 River Dr. 54915	1/7/04
17 Shelley Navis	425 Taylor St. #6 Kimberly, WI 54136	1-7-04
18 Victoria Wronka	837 W. Elm Dr. Little Chute WI, 54140	1-7-04

AB-470 Continued...

Name:	Address:	Date:
19 Carol Howe	607 Wildrose Ln. Appleton, WI 54914	1-7-2004
20 <del>Joe</del> Amy	214 Tustin Rd Fremont, WI 54940	1/7/04
21 <del>My</del> Doug Akey	214 TUSTIN RD. Fremont, WI. 54940	1/3/04
22 Sara Woehler	921 N Appleton St. Appleton, WI 54911	1/7/04
23 Shannon Hansen	38 Hillock Ct Appleton WI 54914	1-7-04
24 Shannon Lussen	1400 Coolidge Ave Little Chute	1-7-04
25 Robyn Madasi	1606 S. Memorial Appleton	1-7-04
26 Laura Smith	3225 N. Rankin St App	1-7-04
27 Connor Frey	2124 W. Roberts App. WI 54914	1-8-04
28 Jennifer Frances	330 N. Meade St #8 Apple. WI 54911	1-8-04
29 Ruth Edmann	W4093 Rd D Road Hortonville	WI 54945 1-8-04
30 Jeremiah A. Stevens	801 DRIFTWOOD LN OSHKOSH, WI 54901	01-08-03
31 Amy Sonderegger	110 W 7 <sup>th</sup> St Kaukauna. WI 54130	
32 Nancy Henke	W175 Lake Sandia Drive Krakow WI 54137	
33 Mayo Meyer	737 Manchester Rd Neenah, WI 54956	1/9/04
34 Lewis Chequell	2121 N. Nicholas Appleton WI 54914	
35 <del>Jim</del> VBS	4119 Tigard Dr. Appleton 54913	
36 <del>Judith</del> Ann	W3222 Webster Ave Appleton 54913	
37 <del>Sharon</del> Sharon	W428 Stump Ave Sherwood 54169	
38 <del>Karen</del> Karen	W6826 Hazelnut Ln. Appleton 54915	
39 Kim Bricko	W126 Hwy 55 Kaukauna	1/13/04
40 Jessica & Paul	715 Harvest DR #3 Billion	1-13-04
41 <del>Michelle</del> Michelle	W2573 Melody Lane Wausau	1-14-04

AB-470 Continued...

Name:	Address:	Date:
42 <del>Janet Smith</del>	951 2nd St E. Eau Claire	1/15/04
43 <del>Janet Smith</del>	N1263 Laverne	1/15/04
44 Mona Schmidt	W2100 Tyler	1/15/04
45 Debbie Duesing	W2494 Clover Downs Ct	1/15/04
46 <del>Paul Hill</del>	W3332 Kocorosa Ln.	1/15/04
47 <del>Theresa R</del>	4727 W Chissey LN	1/15/04
48 <del>Edna</del>	120 N. WINNERAGO	1-15-04
49 <del>John</del>	515 E CARROLL ST	1-15-04
50 <del>Chris May</del>	3208 N MARSHALL	1-15-04
51 David Flunker	2137 W Hiowatha Dr	1-15-04
52 <del>Betty</del>	N9635 Goldenway Appleton	1/15/04
53 <del>Richard</del>	2237 Henry St. Menasha, WI	1/15/04
54 <del>John</del>	327 Center St. Neenah	1/15/04
55 Vicki Mayer	918 W Parkway Blvd.	1/15/04
56 Heidi Miller	N1610 Linda Lou Dr.	1/15/04
57 Amy McHice	N5866 Buelow Rd.	1/15/04
58 Stacie L. McClosky	W16983 Center Valley Rd.	1/15/04
59 Danielle Kaiser	45116 Providence Ave #6	1/15/04
60 Danielle Kirk	417 W Main St Little Chute <sup>WI 54140</sup>	1-15-04
61 Jirsha Hutpas	408 Pine St Little Chute WI 54140	1-15-04
62 Jodi Warner	2190 Laurel Rd Kaukauna, WI 54130	1-15-04
63 <del>Jan</del>	4725 Short Rd Oshkosh, WI 54904	1/15/04
64 <del>Erin</del>	1426 S. Union - Sherman	1/15/04





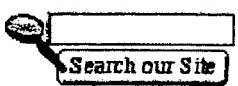


Appleton  
Weather  
Temp: 40 °F  
Hi: 48 °F  
Lo: 37 °F

**LOCAL NEWS**  
Posted Oct. 28, 2003

# Baby sitter charged with assault

ADVE



- ▣ [Main Page](#)
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- ▣ [Outdoors](#)
- ▣ [Timber Rattlers](#)
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- ▣ [Entertainment](#)
- ▣ [Life & Style](#)
- ▣ [News-Record](#)
- ▣ [Current Views](#)
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*The Post-Crescent*

APPLETON —A baby sitter who said an 8-month-old boy in her care was injured when he fell from a "bouncy chair" was charged Monday with felony assault.

The Bear Creek boy suffered brain damage and is currently unresponsive, officials said.

Yanet Arcos-Tapia, 27, of Bear Creek, appeared Monday afternoon in Outagamie County Circuit Court where she was ordered held on a \$50,000 bond by Court Commissioner Brian Figy. She had been taken into custody Friday by investigators with the Outagamie County Sheriff's Department.

The mother said the boy was laughing and playful when she dropped him off at the sitter's.

Arcos-Tapia, who was looking after five children, called the father later saying the



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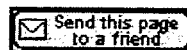
baby was sick. The father found his son on his back, turning purple. He said Arcos-Tapia told him a toy had fallen on the child.

There were no visible injuries. At Children's Hospital in Milwaukee, doctors found injuries consistent with shaken baby syndrome.

Arcos-Tapia later said she put him in a bouncy chair and was changing another child when she heard the boy scream. She said the chair had tipped forward against an activity center.



[Back to Top](#)




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## **Tearful, Sorry' Day-care Provider Gets 14 Years**

**The Families Of Children Who Suffered Abuse By  
Connie Bentzler Embrace In Relief And Joy After She  
Is Sentenced.**

**Wisconsin State Journal :: FRONT :: A1**

**Saturday, February 1, 2003  
Ed Treleven Courts reporter**

Two mothers whose children endured abuse at the hands of Connie Bentzler, their day-care provider, embraced and wept tears of relief as Bentzler was led from a courtroom in handcuffs Friday afternoon.

Moments earlier, Dane County Circuit Judge Angela Bartell sentenced Bentzler, 32, to 14 years in prison for injuring two infants in October 2001 at her Fitchburg day-care center. She also will spend 11 years on extended supervision.

"Goodbye, mom," Bentzler said through tears as bailiffs bound her hands before she left the courtroom.

Friday's session ended an unusual four-day sentencing hearing during which Bartell heard about not only the injuries that Bentzler has admitted causing but other injuries suffered by two other children who also had been in her care.

Most serious among the injuries was a skull fracture suffered by a 4-month-old girl that occurred, Bentzler admitted, when she dropped the girl from her arms onto the floor because the girl would not stop crying. She told police she heard the girl's skull crack.

The same girl also suffered seizures after Bentzler "bounced" the girl. Bentzler also admitted that she held the noses and mouths of the girl and an 8-month-old boy to stop them from crying. The children went home with bright red noses

and ears.

Bentzler's attorney, Joe Sommers, said Bentzler admitted all the things that she did, and he disputed assertions that she was withholding information about other injuries she was said to have caused.

Though the children now appear to be developing normally, Assistant District Attorney Gretchen Hayward said Bentzler's acts could easily have killed the children.

"If there had been a little more shaking, we might have been here on a homicide," Hayward said. "If there had been a little more force, we might have been here on a homicide."

Hayward said that Bentzler not only abused the children, but she abused the trust of the parents who believed in her as a child-care specialist. Bartell told the group of parents that they should not blame themselves for trusting Bentzler.

Bentzler sobbed intermittently and sometimes loudly throughout the hearing. In a voice that wavered, she stood and apologized to the families of the children.

"I am sorry. I am sorry. I am sorry," Bentzler said. "I am sorry for the rest of my life."

The mothers of the infants, who originally met in passing as they dropped off and picked up their children at Bentzler's center, said afterward that they have become close friends during the ordeal. After Friday's hearing, the families all exchanged hugs and lingered in the courtroom with members of the prosecution team, clearly pleased with the outcome.

Still, one of the mothers said afterward that Bentzler can receive no punishment that would make up for what she did to the children.

Return to story

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