



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 30, 2019

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Taking Crucial Steps to Address Rising Child Care Costs for Working Families

MADISON – Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement to announce the introduction of LRB-3361/1, relating to a tax credit for child care costs:

“Everyone in our nation deserves to have an affordable and quality child care option for their children. Child care is absolutely critical for the early education and development of our children, and shapes our country’s future leaders. Further, child care lays the foundation for success for our kids, while also ensuring that parents can remain in the workforce and continue to provide for their families. However, rising child care costs continue to be a major concern across our nation, and unfortunately, right here in our state. In fact, Wisconsin remains ranked in the top 15 states for most expensive infant and child care in the United States.

Child care is considered affordable if it costs no more than 10% of a family’s income, yet in Wisconsin:

- The average yearly price for parents with one infant in center-based care is **\$12,552**—that’s over \$1,000 every month (13% of the average annual dual-parent income, 47% of single-parent income).
- The average yearly price for parents with two children in center-based care is **\$22,733** (24% of the average annual dual-parent income, 86% of single-parent income).

Wisconsin families are spending a colossal, and quite frankly unacceptable, amount of their annual incomes on child care. With only one in five Wisconsin families actually being able to afford quality care for their children, Wisconsin must act now to provide meaningful relief for working families. No parent should ever have to choose between entering the workforce to provide for their family, and staying home to save money on child care costs. No parent should be forced to choose insufficient, or even unsafe, child care options for their kids due to unaffordability. Yet, these are the realities that Wisconsin families continue to face.

LRB-3366/1 takes crucial steps to address rising child care costs and to help working families across Wisconsin by offsetting these expenses through creating a nonrefundable individual income tax credit, based on the federal tax credit, for expenses for household and dependent care services. This credit, similar to those offered in 23 other states and Washington D.C., provides eligible working families with qualifying children/dependents a tax credit to offset the cost of care.

Early childhood care and education benefits children, parents, the workforce, the economy, and our state’s future. LRB-3366/1 will ensure that Wisconsin’s youngest learners have the opportunity to succeed, and that Wisconsin’s parents do not continue to struggle as they work hard to ensure their child’s success. I am proud to stand with Wisconsin’s working families.”

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Melissa Sargent is a State Representative in the Wisconsin Assembly, representing the 48th Assembly District, which covers the east and north sides of the city of Madison and the village of Maple Bluff