

## Building a skilled workforce – Access to Child Care is Key

House Bill 1303 and Senate Bill 5341

Remove Barriers to Education and Strengthen Washington’s Economy

### Our economy is growing, but our workforce isn’t keeping up.

In 2020-25 73% of our workforce will need some kind of credential beyond high school, but right now only 40% attain a credential by age 26. One reason why -

**Washington has one of the most restrictive child care subsidy systems in the country:**

- **Full time students must also work 20 hours a week** – only one other state requires this.
- **Students can only get vocational credentials** – even prospective teachers seeking AA degrees in early childhood education do not qualify.

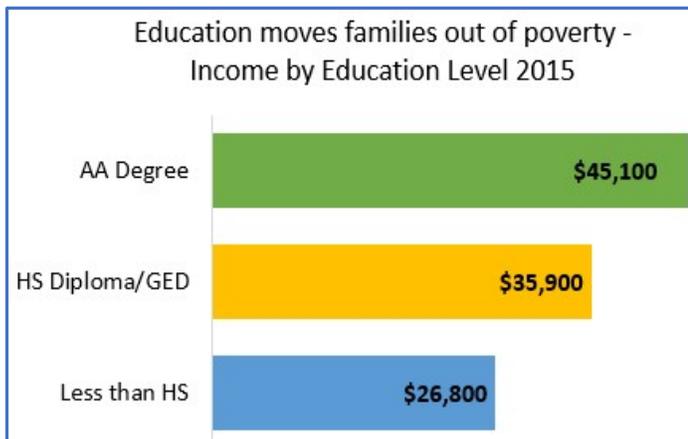
### Our child care policies restrict growth.

This year 46,300 students with children are enrolled in our state’s community and technical colleges. Many will struggle to complete their degrees on time because they lack regular child care for their children and do not have

the support and time they need to thrive. Our incredibly outdated approach makes it hard for student parents to pursue an educational pathway that will enable them to find a decent paying job.

Data from other states shows:

- **58% of community college student parents who work 15 hours per week or more leave school without earning a credential** within six years of enrollment.
- **Student parents who were able to access child care were more than three times as likely to graduate on-time** as student parents who did not access child care.



If I had access to child care I would have finished my AA within 3 years, not 5, and would have gotten a decent paying job much sooner. And I would not have needed any more Food Stamps, State Need Grant and other public benefits which I had to use throughout my time in college just to survive.

*Ashley Mucino, Foster Care Behavioral Specialist, Rochester WA*

### House bill 1303 and Senate bill 5341 will help parents and strengthen our economy.

This bipartisan effort to eliminate the work requirement and expand allowable degrees will enable more parents to move out of poverty and into living wage jobs. Parents will graduate more quickly, be less dependent on state benefits, and contribute more to Washington’s growing high-skilled economy.

**For more information please contact:**

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