



How We Work

- About >
- Legal Help >
- News and Commentary >
- Take Action >
- Ways to Give >

DONATE

- Abortion
- Child Care
- Equal Pay & the Wage Gap
- General Health Care & Coverage
- Poverty & Income Security
- Supreme Court
- Title IX
- All Topics** >

[Supporter Shop](#)

[Newsletter Signup](#)

January 5, 2026

Issues: [Child Care & Early Learning](#), [Child Care & Early Learning Access & Affordability](#), [Child Care & Early Learning Policy Implementation](#), [Child Care & Early Learning Workforce](#), [Child Care Assistance](#), [Family, Friend, & Neighbor Care](#)

Trump Administration Rule Raises Child Care Costs Amid Escalating Attacks on Early Educators and Families

Washington, DC — The Trump administration today announced plans to [repeal a Biden-era child care rule that protects families from excessive costs and provides greater financial stability for child care programs](#), a move that could significantly raise child care expenses while further destabilizing an already overburdened and underfunded system.

The Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it is proposing to eliminate a rule that capped child care copayments at 7 percent of a family’s income. **Without this cap, families could be forced to pay even more for the child care that they need.**

The proposed rule would also roll back a federal requirement that ensures that early educators are paid based on a child care program’s enrollment rather than its daily attendance. **Enrollment-based payments**—standard practice in the private child care market—offer providers predictable revenue, allowing them to pay staff consistently, plan budgets, and remain open. **Attendance-based payments**, by contrast, create unpredictability that can threaten providers’ finances and ability to stay afloat.

This action comes amid broader attacks on the child care system, including the Trump administration’s [recent threat to freeze federal child care funding](#) in Minnesota based on racially charged

[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

and unsubstantiated allegations of fraud. The administration's reliance on a [right-wing influencer](#) with a history of spreading misinformation not only harms families, but also creates a dangerous environment for providers and children by [encouraging extremists](#) to show up at child care programs, demanding to be let in.

"The Trump administration is taking a sledgehammer to our already fragile child care system," said **Amy Matsui, vice president of child care and income security at the National Women's Law Center**. "With this rule change, families may be forced to pay more for child care, straining their budgets and potentially pushing more women out of the workforce, while increasing financial uncertainty for child care providers. Combined with its unproven and racist attacks on child care programs in Minnesota, this administration has shown it is not interested in supporting families or early educators, only in advancing its [backwards, authoritarian agenda](#)."

###

YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN

BLOG

Mary Poppins and the Fantasy of a Well-Funded Child Care System

Dec 12, 2023

BLOG

Bold and Unapologetic: Teachers Across America Know What They Are Worth

Apr 9, 2018

BLOG

Extremist Anti-Abortion Laws are Undermining Legislative Progress in States

Jun 11, 2019


BLOG

What Does Abolitionist Activism Mean for Early Childhood Policies?

Jul 23, 2020



PRESS ROOM
CONTACT
LEGAL HELP
JOBS

 **Phone:**
(202) 588
5180



© 2026 National Women's Law Center

[Privacy Policy](#) [Disclaimer](#)