

## Weekly Legislative Update: **Early Care and Education**

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Most of the early care and education bills we support are now in Senate Ways and Means or House Appropriations. These bills need to be approved by the fiscal committees by February 24. These include: [SB 5225](#), [SB 5316](#), [SB 5423](#), [HB 1451](#), [HB 1511](#), [HB 1525](#), [HB 1550](#), and [HB 1633](#). ([HB 1633](#) is scheduled for hearing on February 20 in the House Capital Budget Committee.)

[SB 5225](#) is scheduled for public hearing in Senate Ways and Means on February 20 at 9:00 am. This bill would expand the availability of child care including for children in immigrant families. **Please sign in [PRO](#) on this bill at least an hour prior to the public hearing.**

The two bills we noted last week as being of concern received hearings this week but did not pass out of their committees of origin. We appreciate you weighing in on [HB 1537](#)-Licensing requirements for child care centers and indoor early learning programs, and [HB 1739](#)-Concerning instruction for child care providers. While these bills died in committee (at least for this session), their public hearings raised questions about balancing child care quality, access and the viability of child care businesses. These questions are likely to continue.

### How You Can Be Involved

- You can help this week by contacting Senate and House fiscal committees to urge them to pass the early care and education bills we support. If your legislator sits on one of the fiscal committees, you can encourage them to support passage of these bills.
- If you're interested in a particular bill, use the links above to go to the bill page. These pages include staff summaries and reports including who testified pro versus con on the bill. There is also information about how to access videos of hearings that have been held.
- Contact Karen Tvedt, [ktvedt@lwvwa.org](mailto:ktvedt@lwvwa.org) if you have questions.