



State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER FORTY-SIX

- WHEREAS,** Whereas, on any given day more than 180,000 Iowa children are in some form of child care while their parents work or attend school, and eighty-five percent of Iowa's youngest kids are in child care; and
- WHEREAS,** Iowa ranks fourth in the nation in the percentage of families with preschool children in which all parents in the household are employed, and Iowa ranks second in the nation in the percentage of families with school-aged children in which all parents in the household are employed; and
- WHEREAS,** safe, reliable and affordable child care is the primary support necessary for families to achieve and maintain self sufficiency, and the availability of quality child care enables parents to work and contribute directly to Iowa's economy; and
- WHEREAS,** infant brain research demonstrates that a child's first three years of life are a critical time for brain development with eighty percent of cognitive development occurring before a child's third birthday; and
- WHEREAS,** quality child care is a vital contributor to the healthy development of Iowa's young children, and numerous long-term studies have shown that high quality care during the formative early childhood years increases the likelihood of a child's success in school and later in life; and
- WHEREAS,** environments that support the stimulation and nurturing of children play a crucial role in developing the ability of a child to learn, and the caregiver relationship (both parent and care provider) is the single strongest determinant of a child's emotional and social development making the retention of quality providers to maintain continuity of caregivers critical for Iowa's youngest children; and
- WHEREAS,** a recent study by the Midwest Child Care Research Consortium found that across all forms of child care, eighteen percent of providers were in the poor quality range, forty-nine percent in the minimal range and thirty-three percent were in the good range; and
- WHEREAS,** there is a continuing need to expand access to quality child care including that provided by child care home providers and low reimbursement rates have contributed to the difficulties of parents in finding adequate care; and
- WHEREAS,** the State is continuously involved in child care quality improvement efforts supporting a number of state and community partnerships to augment the number and quality of settings serving Iowa's youngest and school-age children including recent efforts to implement Iowa's Quality Rating System to provide parents with a menu of key indicators to assess the quality of child care; and
- WHEREAS,** it is important to preserve freedom of choice for parents in selecting appropriate child care services for their children and to do so, the State must be able to ensure the availability of quality child care services on terms that will attract and retain sufficient numbers of child care providers in the State's child care assistance program; and
- WHEREAS,** child care providers are located throughout the State and therefore may not be able to effectively voice their common concerns about how to improve quality in child care, the State's child care assistance program, their role in the program, or the terms and conditions of their provision of services without representation; and

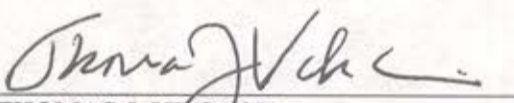
WHEREAS, it is essential for the State to receive input from the child care home providers in order to improve the delivery of child care services.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor of the State of Iowa, by the power vested in me by the laws and the Constitution of the State of Iowa, do hereby order and direct as follows:

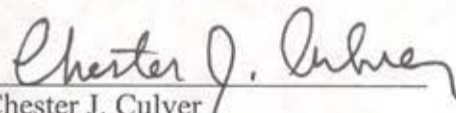
- I. The Director of the Iowa Department of Human Services, or his or her designee, shall meet and confer with the authorized representative of non-registered child care home providers not otherwise covered by Executive Order No. 45 and who receive payment from the State of Iowa Child Care Assistance Program, as designated by the majority of individual providers. The verification of majority status shall be based on signed authorization cards and shall be conducted by Iowa Mediation Service, Inc, on January 17, 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter based on the availability of Iowa Mediation Service, Inc. Any costs associated with verifying majority status shall be borne by the organizations seeking majority status. The Department of Human Services shall provide Iowa Mediation Service with a record of child care home providers covered by this executive order.
- II. In meeting and conferring with the authorized representative, the Department of Human Services shall discuss issues of mutual concern, including training, reimbursement rates, payment procedures, health and safety conditions, and any other changes to current practice that would improve recruitment and retention of non-registered child care home providers, that would improve the quality of the programs they provide, or that would encourage providers to seek to become registered providers.
- III. The provisions of this executive order are not intended to alter or infringe upon the existing relationship between child care home providers and consumers.
- IV. Nothing in this executive order shall be construed to contravene any applicable state or federal law.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 16th day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand six.


THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


Chester J. Culver
Secretary of State