



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., 10th District

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NEW RATINGS SYSTEM HURTS THIS COMMUNITY

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr. released the following statement this afternoon regarding YoungStar, the system used by the State to rate child care providers:

“The implementation of a tiered reimbursement system will disenfranchise small ‘mom-and-pop’ child care centers in Milwaukee County. Ultimately, this system could put many family providers out of business and reduce the service options available to my constituents. Today, I am calling on the Governor and the Legislators who represent Milwaukee County to reassess their prior decisions, which are creating unintended consequences that are disgusting and economically harmful.

“Kids and parents in Milwaukee County deserve access to safe, high-quality care. As a parent myself, I know that high-level care is not only found in larger group centers. Family-owned providers also meet these standards, and the State should work with, rather than against, these small businesses.

“The State must become more aggressive in helping family providers meet minimum educational levels through training opportunities. In particular, residents living on Milwaukee’s northwest side need better options. The State should help develop high quality providers for families living in that area. After all, employers suffer when workers cannot access quality child care options.

“This a chance for the Governor to stand with working class people, including those who depend on providers for support and those who provide this valuable service to the community. State leaders need to reconsider this program and how it might disproportionately affect residents and service providers in Milwaukee County.

“With nearly 30% of Milwaukee’s population living in poverty, there is an urgent need to provide a high level of care for our children and adults. Our policymakers need to strike a better balance given the cumulative needs of our community.

“There are ways to minimize fraud and be responsible with tax dollars without being hurtful or punitive to service providers and the parents who depend on these programs. Let’s not paint a broad stroke by implementing policies that are cruel and irresponsible. Let’s not be disgusting.”

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