

January 30, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill No 2238. As the Childcare Director of a mid-sized program, the length it takes background checks to be returned to the provider has been creating a drastic impact on our program. Fingerprint timeliness has an impact on every infant, toddler, preschooler, parent, teacher, and Director in our program. I currently have one classroom closed (12 spots) and have 5 additional preschool openings. I run on the hope that two preschoolers are gone every day so I can split the other 5 children into the 5 open preschool slots. If this doesn't happen, a director from a different area of the YMCA must come in to cover. I have 4 open toddler spots, so most days I hope one toddler is gone and we can combine the others into a different classroom. As a director, I am in the classroom every day from 8:00-10:00 am, and then cook, as our cook is waiting on fingerprint results, and then return to the classroom from 11:30 am – 6:00 p.m. After a year of doing so, burn out is real. The wonderful staff we have in our environments are working longer hours than hired for and combining with other children from other classrooms.

I have included a grid of those fingerprinted in the last month for your review.

Initials	Date interviewed	Date fingerprinted	Preliminary result	Final background check	Work start date
EE	1/18/2023	1/23/2023 ND only	Still waiting	Still waiting	
ES	n/a update fingerprints after 5 years	12/19/2022 ND only		12/28/2022	12/28/2022
IN	n/a update fingerprints	12/20/2022 ND only		12/28/2022	12/28/2022
JJ	n/a update fingerprints after 5 years	1/19/23 ND only	Still waiting	Still waiting	Due by 2/19/23 or unable to serve as Director
JO	12/22/2022	01/4/2023 ND & MN	Still waiting	Still waiting	Still waiting Director remains the cook
KH	1/13/23	1/18/23 ND only	Still waiting	Still waiting	Took another part time job while waiting for prints
OH	1/19/2023	1/24/2023 ND & MN	Still waiting	Still waiting	
KR	Current staff member if different department	12/5/2022 ND 7 MN		12/28/2022	Sub
MC	1/3/23	1/4/23 ND & MN	Still waiting	Still waiting	Keeps checking in, took other

					employment in the meantime
Initials	Date interviewed	Date fingerprinted	Preliminary result	Final background check	Work start date
TA	1/12/23				Took employment not in childcare because of the wait to work
TW	1/23/23	1/24/23 ND only	Still waiting	Still waiting	

While we fully support fingerprints and background checks for employees, the turnaround time creates a hardship for programs. While it takes time to advertise and find candidates to interview, after the interview, the process to get fingerprinted and the results back has taken 1 to 4+ weeks. Most staff who need to wait 4+ weeks have found employment elsewhere when they are finally able to begin work in childcare.

This concludes my testimony. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you for your time,

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