

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

1. **Start with who you are:** “I’m a family child care provider from just down the street. I’ve been a provider for [# of years] and have care for [# of children] on a day-to-day basis.”
2. **Focus on the children:** “The harassment happening to providers in our county is putting the children we care for at risk. We must protect kids and the early childhood educators who care for them.”
3. **Emphasize community impact:** “Families can’t work, and local businesses suffer if child care disappears.”
4. **Correct misinformation calmly:** “Providers are licensed, regulated professionals who are essential to our communities.”
5. **Focus on solutions and action:** “Let’s protect child care in our community, not attack the providers families depend on.”

KEY INFORMATION TO TALK ABOUT

- Right now, California’s child care system is under attack.
- After false fraud reports in Minnesota led to chaos and tragedy, similar hate-driven attacks are now targeting Somali providers here in San Diego.
- These attacks are not just unfair; they are rooted in racism and misinformation.
- San Diego is home to one the nation’s largest Somali communities, yet false claims are being weaponized to justify cutting billions in federal funding to states like California.
- These cuts would put nearly **100,000 children** at risk and further destabilize an already fragile child care system. This is a political distraction from the real issue: families need affordable, quality child care.

WHO FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS ARE

- Family child care providers are licensed, early-childhood educators, small business owners, and skilled professionals who open their homes daily to serve working families across California.
- We make child care accessible by:
 - Accepting subsidies such as CalWORKs and other state programs
 - Offering flexible hours for parents working early mornings, nights, and weekends
 - Providing culturally and linguistically environments where children feel safe and supported
- Family child care providers are essential infrastructure for children, families, and communities — and they deserve investment, protection, and respect.