

Senate Health & Human Services

SB21-201 Stricter Transparency & Enforcement In Child Care

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Megan Gage</p> <p>For</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>I began taking my, at the time, four-month-old daughter to an Amanda Anderson (an unlicensed, in-home day-care provider) back in 2016 and subsequently started bringing my 5-month-old son in 2019. Prior to our start date I did research, a background check, checked references and everything came back clean/positive. I know this was also the case with the families that I knew that also attended her daycare.</p> <p>The state issued 4-5 cease and desist orders while my children were in her care and I knew nothing of it. The state sat outside of her home for surveillance and watched as we brought our small children into this home and said nothing. I will live with the guilt my entire life that I unknowingly put my children in danger every single day. I was lucky enough to walk away from this circumstance with my children, but the Matthews family was not.</p> <p>These types records and orders should be made public, without exception. These are our most vulnerable. Parents do the work, the research and are still left with gaping holes of information that the state has eyes on. There is absolutely no reason why this information should ever sit on someone desk again. This passing of this bill has the potential to save the lives of children and save their families from lifelong devastation. My family and I fully support the "Elle Matthews Act for Increased Safety in Child Care."</p>