



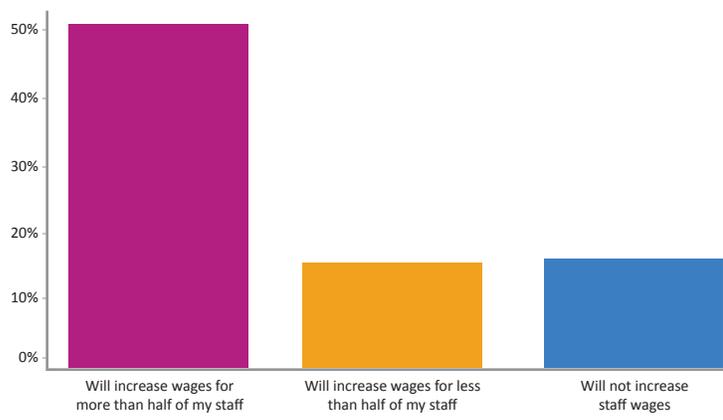
PRESERVE HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Support Child Care Programs Across Washington Invest in Working Connections Child Care and Approve HB1758

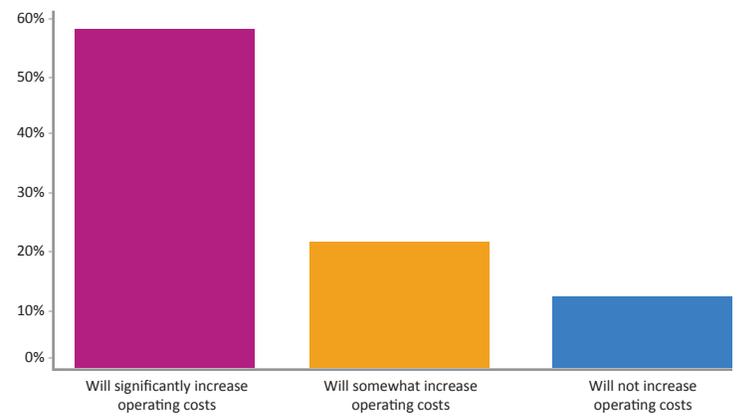
Washington's minimum wage increase comes at a time when thousands of child care small businesses are struggling to stay open. Child care educators earn very low wages, child care center teachers turn over at a 43% rate, and 22% of child care businesses have closed since 2011. Without more public investment, continuing increases in the minimum wage will accelerate these alarming trends.

We call on the legislature to fund the cost of quality child care by investing \$85.5 million into Working Connections Child Care center reimbursement rates.

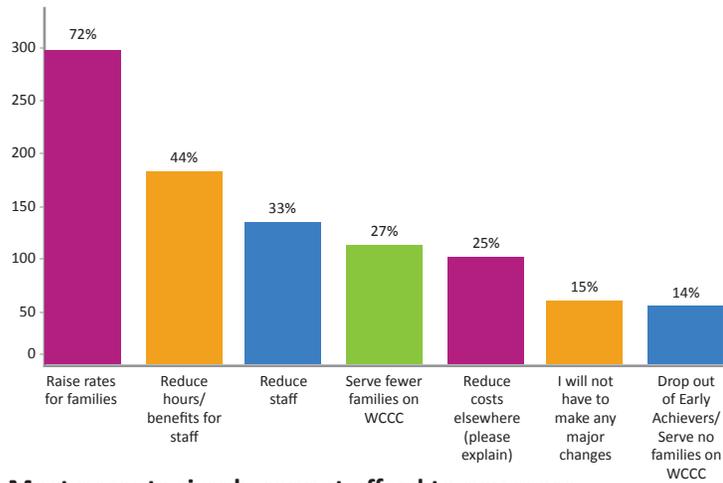
Impact of minimum wage increase on child care staff wages



Impact of minimum wage increase on operating costs



How will child care programs deal with the impact?



\$ WA is the 3rd most expensive state for care of an infant in family care programs, and the 6th most expensive for care in centers.

Child care for an infant in a center costs more than 50% of the state median income for single mothers.¹

What are child care providers saying?

"We choose to serve all families, regardless of their ability to pay full price. However, the amount of coverage we receive for DSHS/ WCCC is so poor that it makes a harmful challenge for us. We receive about 40% of what the true cost of care is. I'm worried we will need to limit our number of [subsidy] families in the future if something doesn't change."

"The bottom line is that the impact as a whole is devastating to children. Parents are having to make choices that do not support quality care or early education and in some cases [are] not even safe for their children."

Most parents simply cannot afford to pay more.

Child Care Aware of WA Child Care Provider Minimum Wage Survey, Feb. 2017

¹ Child Care Aware of America: 2016 Parents and the High Cost of Child Care Report