



## Why VMFC supports SB 244

DOD FCC programs follow some of the **highest standards for care** in the nation. Standards are typically more stringent than State standards.

According to a recent report, the Defense Department currently **needs more than 1,400 family child care providers** to meet the demands of military communities. But in fiscal year 2021, the department reported having only **727 available providers**, an almost **50% deficit**.

Family child care providers offer military families reliable and personalized care in a homelike setting, on and off military installations. These FCC providers, the majority of whom are military spouses (**87% in fiscal year 2021**), operate as independent business owners, **contributing to the financial stability** of their families.

The military services' FCC programs are intended to **support the mission requirements of the installation** and are for use only by active-duty military personnel, reserve component military personnel on active duty, DOD civilians and other eligible users.

By exempting providers already certified through the military, New Mexico can **enhance the economic security of both the child care providers and families**.

By exempting DoD family child care (FCC) providers from state licensure and registration processes that are duplicative of the certification they receive from the military services, New Mexico can **enhance the quality of life and economic security** of both the **providers and military families** seeking qualified child care options.

As with their civilian peers, access to quality, affordable child care is very important to military family **financial security** and **readiness**.

In a recent study of active-duty military families, child care availability is one of the most **critical child-related problems** experienced to a large extent after Permanent Change of Station (**PCS**) moves.

All military certified family child care providers are certified professionals who are licensed, have obtained favorable background checks, and maintain a **DoD Certificate to Operate**. Each installation's FCC program **ensures all providers complete a comprehensive training program** that promotes developmentally appropriate intellectual, social, emotional, and physical learning.

When moving with their service member, FCC providers do not have to complete additional training or another background check when they arrive at their new military installation, unless their certification is due for a renewal. The **new installation commander grants providers certification** upon completion of the required home inspections.

States that require licensure or registration for some on-installation and all off-installation FCC providers **can delay a provider from providing child care**, which creates a financial hardship for a military spouse who needs to reestablish a business after a military move.

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