
Governor Thompson's Remarks at
signing ceremony for SB-77,
Child Care Grants Bill
March 28, 1991
Red Caboose Day Care Center, Madison

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE.

I'M GLAD TO BE ABLE TO BE HERE, TODAY. I CAN'T THINK OF A
MORE FITTING PLACE TO SIGN THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAN
AT THE RED CABOOSE DAY CARE CENTER.

TODAY, AS THE NUMBER OF SINGLE PARENTS AND DUAL-CAREER
COUPLES CONTINUES TO GROW, A PARENT'S BIGGEST WORRY IS
FINDING AND AFFORDING QUALITY DAY CARE FOR HIS OR HER
CHILDREN.

THERE IS A GROWING NEED ACROSS OUR STATE AND NATION FOR
ACCESS TO SOLID, HIGH-QUALITY DAY CARE PROGRAMS.

SINCE 1987, FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES HAS MORE THAN
TRIPLED ...

... INCREASING FROM \$12.6 MILLION IN 1987 TO \$41 MILLION IN 1991.

TODAY, I AM PLEASED TO BE SIGNING SENATE BILL 77, WHICH
WILL ADD ANOTHER \$4.4 MILLION FOR FAMILY DAY CARE NEEDS.

WITH THIS ADDITIONAL FUNDING, DAY CARE FUNDING WILL
HAVE GROWN MORE THAN 260% IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

MORE THAN HALF OF THAT INCREASE ... 139% ... HAS COME FROM
STATE FUNDING.

SENATE BILL 77 IS INTENDED TO HELP LOW-INCOME WORKING
PARENTS ... WHO ARE AT RISK OF TURNING TO PUBLIC
ASSISTANCE, BECAUSE THEY CAN'T AFFORD ADEQUATE DAY
CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

THESE FUNDS WILL HELP THE APPROXIMATELY 2,500 CHILDREN
CURRENTLY ON DAY CARE WAITING LISTS.

THE BILL MAY ALSO HELP SOME FORMER A.F.D.C RECIPIENTS,
WHOSE YEAR OF TRANSITIONAL DAY CARE IS NEARING THE END,
AND WHO STILL MAY NEED MORE HELP BEFORE THEY CAN
FINANCIALLY MAKE IT ON THEIR OWN.

IT JUST MAKES SENSE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO DO
EVERYTHING WE CAN TO KEEP PARENTS ON PAYROLLS ... AND OFF
OF WELFARE ROLLS.

SENATE BILL 77 MAKES UP TO \$4.4 MILLION IN FEDERAL DOLLARS
AVAILABLE, AND APPLIES IT TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES' CHILD
CARE.

I'M PLEASED THAT THIS IMPORTANT BILL PASSED SO QUICKLY.
IT'S SPEEDY PASSAGE MEANS THAT WE CAN CONTINUE HELPING
THOSE OF OUR CITIZENS WHO NEED AND DESERVE OUR HELP IN
FINDING DAY CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

BY SIGNING THIS BILL INTO LAW TODAY, WE ARE ENSURING THAT
OUR CHILDREN ARE IN GOOD HANDS ... AND THEREFORE THAT
OUR FUTURE IS IN GOOD HANDS.

THANK YOU. I WILL NOW SIGN THE BILL.