



State Representative
77th Assembly District

Brett Hulseley

Serving Madison,
Shorewood Hills & Middleton

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Rep. Hulseley raps Governor for 35% cuts to YoungStar childcare program— Puts kids and working families at risk

Rep. Brett Hulseley (D-Madison) made these comments today after appearing at a Department of Children and Families event at the Learning Gardens Child Development Center in the 77th Assembly district, which he represents.

“I was pleased to attend the event highlighting the YoungStar program which was developed with bipartisan support in the last legislative session. Unfortunately, Governor Walker and the GOP’s budget cuts funding from the program so much that it won’t work as intended.”

YoungStar is the state’s quality rating and improvement system for child care providers to improve the outcome for kids and overall quality of child care which was developed by Democrats with bipartisan support. YoungStar will create incentives and provide support for programs to improve services, particularly to low-income children.

“Dane County and the City of Madison run an excellent childcare accreditation program which would have ensured every single daycare provider who serves low-income children in our area was eligible for an increase in payments last month. These providers have had their payments frozen since 2006 and this much deserved increase would have given them more resources to improve their programs. Communities around the state would have had the opportunity to implement similar programs,” Hulseley said.

The original legislation was designed to reward providers who improved the quality of their child care programs and earn the first cost-of-operating increase in Wisconsin Shares funding since 2006. Under the original model approved last year, exceptional “5-star” providers who participated in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program would have been eligible for a 25% increase beginning this year. However, Governor Walker and the GOP’s budget trimmed these increases to 10% in 2012 and they won’t receive the full 25% increase until 2013.

“The Walker/GOP budget cuts 35% of what was originally a \$16 million budget, undermining child care in Wisconsin and postponing much needed improvements. These funds were supposed to go directly to parents so they can work and feed their families, but it’s clear that the Governor’s priorities are not helping workers or children,” Hulseley said.

“Instead the Governor and GOP legislators increased corporate welfare and special interest handouts by over \$200 million,” said Hulseley. “This is a clear example of how Walker and the GOP enrich the greedy at the cost of kids and the needy.”

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