



JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. Rodriguez votes in favor of ‘Choices in Childcare’

MADISON – On Thursday afternoon, Rep. Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) and her Assembly colleagues voted to advance the ‘Choices in Childcare’ bill package. The package consists of a number of bills that alter the regulations surrounding childcare and create new programs for families and providers.

“This budget, we increased spending on childcare by over \$90 million. Included in our Children and Families motion was \$15 million to create a revolving loan fund to help expand access to childcare. Loans will be available to childcare providers and aspiring providers to help them make renovations to comply with requirements that come with licensing,” said Rodriguez.

Loans provided under [Assembly Bill 388](#) will be interest-free, and once a provider pays off their loan, the funding in the revolving fund will be able to help *another* provider. “It is our hope that this revolving loan fund will expand the number of childcare slots in our state by helping existing centers renovate and helping aspiring providers open,” continued Rep. Rodriguez.

“The average annual cost of childcare is \$10,980 per child. [Assembly Bill 387](#) creates a program for parents to establish a state pre-tax account for eligible childcare expenses, much like a Health Savings Account,” explained Rodriguez. “Parents in need of childcare are going to be paying for it regardless; the creation of Child Care Reimbursement Accounts will simply help families plan for the expense and save some money by having the funds taken out pre-tax.”

The ‘Choices in Childcare’ package will now go to the Senate for consideration.

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