

AUGUST ADVOCACY IS ACTION

Advocacy is Action is NAFCC's annual campaign mobilizing family child care educators, allies, and advocates to drive real policy change during the Congressional recess. Beginning August 11, 2025, educators across the country will rise in unified action to protect and strengthen the future of family child care.

This year's campaign comes at a turning point. Family child care continues to be squeezed out of the system, despite being the backbone of early care in rural, multilingual, and underserved communities. With nearly 100,000 FCC programs lost since 2012, and more closures looming, the stakes are higher than ever.



FAMILY CHILD CARE CONSULTANT

Jerletha McDonald

President, ADFW Family Child Care Network
Arlington, Texas

Appointed Roles

- **Appointed Member**, Texas Early Learning Council
- **Committee Member**, Early Learning Alliance
- **Board Member**, Workforce Solutions Tarrant County
- **Member**, Texas Workforce Commission's HB619 Workgroup
- **Member**, 2023 Texas Rising Star 4-Year Review Workgroup
- **Advisory Committee Member**, Home-Based Child Care Research at Erikson Institute
- **Member**, National Center for Early Childhood Quality Assurance - National Family Child Care Committee. (2021-2025)
- **Committee Member**, Tarrant County Blue Ribbon Action Committee

Impact

With nearly 20 years in the field, Jerletha has mentored over 1,000 women in entrepreneurship, economic mobility, and leadership, empowering them to build sustainable businesses, increase their financial independence, and develop as community leaders.

Advocacy and Leadership

- Moderated a 2020 national listening session with Biden campaign staff and FCC leaders to highlight the unique challenges faced by family child care educators.
- Hosted a Texas Family Child Care Educators listening session to share ARPA funding updates, gather feedback on the previous funding round, and provide a space for educators to voice their needs. Ruth Friedman, Ph.D., former Director of the Office of Child Care at the Administration for Children & Families (ACF), attended to answer questions and hear directly from the educators (in 2021).
- Led a successful 2022 advocacy campaign in Grand Prairie, TX, overturning a 40-year ordinance that prevented FCC licensing—paving the way for program expansion and helping resolve the local child care desert.
- Testified at the 2022 Texas Capitol Business and Industry Hearing, presenting solutions-focused testimony on the child care workforce crisis.
- Advocated for and provided testimony on SB 1145, approved as Proposition 2 (2023), allowing cities and counties to offer 50%–100% property tax exemptions to qualifying child care providers.
- Advocated for and testified in support of SB 599, limiting local governments from imposing stricter health/safety standards on FCC than state law—ensuring consistency and operational protection for providers.
- Served as a 2024 NAFCC Houston Advisory Committee Consultant for national engagement strategy.



LEARN MORE

<https://nafcc.org/advocacy-is-action-2025/>



CONTACT US

policy@nafcc.org