

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 EDUCATOR

Mary Curry

Owner and Director of Pathways Enrichment Academy
Tacoma, Washington

Appointed Roles

- **Public Policy Representative**, Washington State Family Child Care Association (WSFCCA)
- **Appointed Member**, Governor's Child Care Taskforce
- **Appointed Member**, Early Learning Design Team
- NAFCC State Representative
- **Executive Board Secretary**, Equal Opportunity Institute (EOI)
- **Public Policy Fellow**, *National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)*
 - Currently serving to **elevate the call to public service**, and awaiting a placement to represent the voice of family child care in national policy work.

Impact

In business since 2012, licensed to care for up to 12 children, with over 150 children and families positively impacted by the program over the years.

Advocacy and Leadership

- **Served as an intervener in Washington State's Capital Gains Tax lawsuit**, alongside public education leaders, in defense of the 7% excise tax. The Washington Supreme Court upheld the law in 2023, and it now funds child care, early learning, and school construction across the state.
- **Advocated for and testified in support of House Bill 1648** (2025), which successfully extended the credentialing deadline to August 2030 for family child care providers. The bill affirms the value of competency-based and lived experience pathways, ensuring equity in workforce requirements.
- **Contributed to the creation of House Bill 1199** (2023), which protects licensed family home child care providers from HOA restrictions, preserving their right to operate legally in residential zones.
- **Led negotiations as SEIU 925 Past President** to secure a \$2,100 base monthly enhancement rate for licensed family child care providers, establishing a foundational income floor for independent caregivers across Washington.
- Founded and serve as **Executive Director of YES for Early Success**, the only statewide cooperative of licensed family child care providers in Washington, offering:
 - Access to ECEAP entitlement slots, which had been historically inaccessible to FCC programs for over 40 years;
 - Technical assistance, training, and infrastructure support to help small, BIPOC-led providers secure public preschool contracts and meet compliance standards;
 - A collaborative statewide model rooted in Liberatory Design and cooperative economics.