

Item 3-3

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By: Clerks

Christine Sugg, resident of Nampa.

Several years ago, I volunteered one afternoon per week for a year at the Pet Haven—simply because of my love for cats and interest in their well-being. I very much appreciated and still appreciate the services that Pet Haven provides on behalf of cats in our community.

However, I am also a grandmother. My granddaughter attended TLC Daycare years ago--and now my grandson attends; and my daughter and I very much appreciate the quality of services that TLC Daycare has provided--and continues to provide—to babies, toddlers, and preschool children for their working parents.

Not only is TLC Daycare providing a greatly needed service for families of children, they also provide jobs in our community. TLC Daycare currently provides employment for 1 part-time and 11 full-time staff members.

At this time, TLC Daycare is caring for and teaching 47 children six weeks through age 5—which supports the ability of 42 families to work. TLC Daycare's specific location provides a service access to the population of parents commuting from Murphy, Melba, and Marsing without a lot of options to--or through—Nampa.

Of particular note, not every daycare is willing to jump the hoops of accommodating the programs that support lower-income families. Forty-seven percent of TLC Daycare's families are lower income. They would be at further disadvantage in attempting to access affordable daycare.

If one adds the number of jobs that TLC Daycare offers, plus the childcare that supports 42 families to be able to work, TLC Daycare is responsible for the support of 54 jobs in our community. Childcare availability in Idaho is already at a premium, which means that attempting to move or closing TLC Daycare would impact the lives and likely livelihoods of all of these 54 working families!

Child-to-adult ratio rules are intended to improve child safety. Nevertheless, as a result of the lack of available daycare in the State of Idaho, the Idaho legislature has already taken the big step of passing a bill to banish the required child-to-adult ratio rules in Idaho daycare centers, in an attempt to ease the childcare shortage that they--at this time--have no other solution for.

If this bill is signed by Governor Otter, it will take effect July 1 and will also move Idaho further down from total safety-protection standards, changing our ranking from 41st to 45th most-loosely-regulated childcare in the U. S. With further cuts that can yet happen at the federal level, we cannot, afford to risk losing TLC Daycare!

Despite my love for cats and their wellbeing, I believe that the needs of our community with respect to childcare and the threat of loss of employment of working families of the patrons of TLC Daycare and of the wonderful providers of care they employ is a more urgent need at this moment. I do sincerely hope that a better location for Pet Haven can be discovered for the benefit of all.

Thank you.

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<https://idahocapitalsun.com/2025/03/19/idaho-legislature-passes-child-care-deregulation-bill-with-tweaks/>