



Pennsylvania Municipal League
President – Douglas Baker, Mayor, City of Franklin



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
President – John J. Jablowski, Jr., MPA, Councilman, Wilkes-Barre Township

MEMO

TO: Members of the House Children and Youth Committee

FROM: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director – Advocacy, The League and PSATC

RE: Support of House Bill 1746 and Amendment A02849

DATE: November 8, 2023

On behalf of the membership of the Pennsylvania Municipal League (The League) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC), I am writing to express our support of House Bill 1746 and Amendment A02849 scheduled for Committee consideration Monday, November 13. This bill amends the Human Services Code clarifying that the term “childcare center” does not include municipal recreation programs for preschool aged children that are operated under the current PA Recreation and Parks Society health and safety protocols. These protocols fit better with short-term programming and include items such as: staffing ratios; background clearances; training of personnel; safety and security of children; and health and wellness procedures.

Many municipalities offer youth recreational programming. These programs are a vital and popular service providing a cost-conscious option for parents who want to give their preschool children the opportunity to have fun and socialize with peers. If these programs are required to adhere to the Department of Human Services’ licensing standards of a childcare center, compliance costs will drastically increase forcing costs to be passed on to families or forcing programs to be eliminated altogether.

House Bill 1746 and the corresponding amendment will ensure municipal preschool programs continue to be offered and that they operate under appropriate health and safety protocols.

We respectfully request an affirmative vote on both House Bill 1746 and Amendment 02849.

Thank you for your consideration.