



MICHIGAN REPORT

N.F.I.B. Joins Lawsuit Over Day Care Providers

The National Federation of Independent Business Small Business Legal Center filed a friend of the court brief in a case involving the unionization of day care providers who were receiving state subsidies to care for low-income children.

The issue involving the Michigan Home Based Child Care Council has been the target of legislative Republicans who question how the program is still operating when the Legislature stripped its funding in the Department of Human Services budget, although the department has kept the program afloat with other dollars saying it has an obligation to continue oversight of home-based child care.

The Mackinac Center Legal Foundation filed the original lawsuit, arguing some day care providers were forced into the union called Child Care Providers Together. But the Court of Appeals dismissed the case in January and it is now on appeal with the state's highest court (See Gongwer Michigan Report, January 5, 2010).

“At a time when families are struggling and jobs are leaving the state, we find it unconscionable that a state agency would aid and abet the diversion of taxpayer dollars into big labor’s pockets,” said NFIB Michigan State Director Charlie Owens. “If this isn’t stopped now, labor unions, with the help of the state of Michigan, will go after other private businesses and force them to join unions as a condition of receiving state payments for services and goods provided.”