



Sample Letter-to-the-Editor (Op-Ed)

Dear Editor,

Working parents deserve to know that their children are safe in child care and that someone with a violent criminal history is not licensed to provide child care or is not working in a child care center.

Parents logically assume that a child care license means child care providers have had a background check. But, that's not the case in most states. **Only 10 states** require child care center workers to have a comprehensive background check, which includes a fingerprint check against state and federal records, as well as checks of the state child abuse and sex offender registries. **Only 9 states** require a comprehensive check for those who provide care out of their home.

Legislation has been introduced, **S. 581 in the U.S. Senate and H.R. 1711, H.R. 1726 and H.R. 3829** in the House, to require comprehensive background checks for child care providers. Currently, **only 18 states** check the sex offender registry! That's just wrong!

It's time for policymakers to protect children in child care. It makes no sense for convicted felons to receive taxpayer dollars to provide child care. For more information on background check legislation visit: www.naccrra.org/public-policy/.

Sincerely,
Jane Doe, Ann Arbor, Michigan

To submit your Op-Ed to local and national news sources, please visit our [Media Action Center](#).

Do you want to get involved? Check out a [list](#) of all pending issue campaigns, including Action Alerts, Media Alerts and state level alerts from our state affiliates...and **take action!**

Do you want to stay involved? [Join](#) our Action Network and sign up to receive several of our newsletters to stay on top of child care issues and receive alerts when your involvement can make a difference!

Get involved...*stay involved!*

Here are some general tips:

1. Op-eds should be no more than **250 words max.**
2. **Target** the letter with only one issue.
3. **Be concise, and get straight to the point early.** This will increase the chances of getting your piece published!
4. **Begin strong and end strong.** Readers should know immediately what your letter is about. Consequently, you want the last thing they read to be something they will remember.