

DHS announces it will no longer collect union dues for home-based child care providers

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On Wednesday, March 2, 2011, the Michigan Department of Human Services announced that it was ending its agreement with the Michigan Home Based Child Care Council. The Michigan Home Based Child Care Council was created in 2006 as a result of an agreement between the Department of Human Services and Mott Community College. The Council was responsible for collecting union dues from the 40,000 home-based day care providers who provide day care to low-income families receiving public assistance. Although they are not state employees, the State of Michigan withheld union dues from the paychecks issued to these providers by DHS. Those union dues were provided to the Council, who then directed the funds to the union, Child Care Providers Together Michigan.

According to Michigan's Director of Human Services, former Justice Corrigan, the Council "has not delivered on its original goals to enhance and improve the delivery of quality care for children whose parents receive assistance from the department." In 2010, the State of Michigan paid \$248 million in subsidies to day care providers and \$200,000 to the Michigan Home Based Child Care Council to oversee the union.

In 2009, the Mackinac Center Legal Foundation filed a lawsuit against the State alleging that Michigan had no right to collect these union dues. In *Loar v. Department of Human Services, Case No. 294087*, the Michigan Court of Appeals twice refused to issue a writ of mandamus to prevent DHS officials from taking the union dues out of day care providers' paychecks.

Effective March 7, 2011, the State of Michigan will no longer fund the Council and will cease collecting union dues. This program is just one of many cuts included in Governor Snyder's 2012 proposed budget.

The Detroit Free Press article discussing this announcement can be found [here](#).