

# House Bill (HB) 175

Rep. Mary González



## Support for Child Care Providers Serving Children with Disabilities

HB 175 would require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to create optional certifications for child care providers to enhance their rating in the Texas Rising Star program. The new optional certifications would include one for providers that support the inclusion of children with disabilities alongside their non-disabled peers. The bill would also establish a grant program offering additional funding to providers each year they receive or maintain these certifications. Grant amounts would be based on the age groups of children served and the provider's enrollment capacity.



Research shows that children with disabilities who participate in high-quality child care programs show higher self-esteem, improved communication skills, and greater academic achievement later in life. But many families struggle to find a child care facility that meet the needs of their child with a disability. This can lead to loss or delay of these benefits, high stress, and parental unemployment.



TWC oversees programs to improve and expand child care services across the state.

These include the Texas Rising Star program, a quality rating and improvement system for certain providers. Texas Rising Star currently offers three levels of quality certification (two-star, three-star, and four-star) to encourage child care and early learning programs to attain higher levels of quality.



Supporters of the bill include:  
The Arc of Texas, Child Care Associates, Children at Risk, Every Texan, Texans Care for Children, Texas Council of Community Centers, Texas Economic Development Council, Texas Licensed Childcare Association, Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education, and United Ways of Texas.



"HB 175 is creative in that it is both helpful for parents to find these programs that are providing exemplary services for their child, but also will expand the number of those programs actually available."

Public testimony to the House Trade, Workforce & Economic Development Committee on HB 175,  
April 2025