



An Open Letter FROM OHIO PARENTS to Ohio Policymakers

WE NEED YOU TO INVEST IN CHILD CARE

Dear Members of the Ohio General Assembly,

We are parents. We are coming together to deliver a very important message: **Ohio's parents need your help.** For years now, we've been calling for the state to increase the support of families and children by addressing the child care crisis. Instead, year after year, the situation has worsened. For us, for our children, and for the good of us all, please hear us now—**our child care system is failing and children are suffering without access to vital services. We need increased investment for children and families in Ohio's biennial budget.**

We are also the workforce. We help Ohio's major companies stay strong and small businesses grow. We start businesses. We support communities. **We can only be parents and workers if we have safe, high-quality child care that we can afford and access.**

We are struggling. From our biggest cities to our rural communities, child care solutions for parents are all-too-often out of reach for families of all incomes. Limited access to reliable, safe child care is impacting all of us—families, communities, and businesses. Centers are closing, waitlists are growing. While we work, our babies, toddlers, and preschoolers need a place to go that is nurturing, supportive, and healthy. **Access to child care will enable our children to grow and learn. That will enable us to work and earn.**

We aren't alone. A new statewide survey found that more than **two-thirds** of non-working or part-time working Ohio moms say they **would go back to work or work more hours if they could access high-quality and affordable child care, and four-in-10 working parents have cut back on their work hours to care for their children.** This survey is just one more in a long line of research and reports that tell the same story over and over again—**the child care crisis hurts children, families, and communities. It is costing Ohio.**

We need your help. We, the undersigned, are feeling the brunt of Ohio's child care shortcomings. We see the desperate need for more affordable and accessible child care options. **Ohio's biennial budget, which is currently being negotiated, is the prime opportunity for our state to make robust and impactful investments to save child care. To expand early learning. To improve the health and well-being of young children.** This investment would allow more parents to work now, and more children to have the strong, safe start in life that they deserve.

We are speaking up. We are asking our elected leaders in the Ohio legislature to take action in Ohio's biennial budget for parents and for the future of our state—our children.

Sincerely,

Michelle Anderson, Jefferson County
Raya Anderson, Montgomery County
Trina Averette, Franklin County
Jennifer Baker, Darke County
Sharita Banks, Columbiana County
Kathryn Bausman, Hancock County
Jonathon Blalock, Fairfield County
Guadalupe Bright, Franklin County
Jordan Bright, Union County
Deborah Brungs, Greene County
Judith Bucher, Allen County
MaryBeth Bush, Trumbull County
Jennifer Butler, Logan County
Corrine Callaghan, Athens County
Maya Camhi, Cuyahoga County
Stacey Camp, Adams County
Betty Cantley, Lorain County
Monique Compton, Stark County
Analisa Condon, Hamilton County
Christina Conley, Ashtabula County
David Crampton, Cuyahoga County
Kay Davis, Guernsey County
Charis Davis, Scioto County
Shaba Douglas, Franklin County
Jessica Draper, Defiance County
Julie Ehemann, Shelby County
Khalilah Evans, Montgomery County
Demetria Foster, Madison County
Camille Freking, Auglaize County
Saraya Griffith, Greene County

Tina Gross, Marion County
Carly Hall, Montgomery County
Christina Hampton, Pike County
Tricia Harrel, Erie County
Christina Holden, Montgomery County
April Hubbard, Lake County
Pecola Hunter, Mahoning County
Christina Hutton, Miami County
Joe Jarvis, Clermont County
Lori Jarvis, Clermont County
Marcy Jett, Mercer County
Megan Johns, Portage County
Brianna Johnson, Hamilton County
Mario Johnson, Lorain County
Rebekah Johnson, Lorain County
Denise Johnston, Allen County
Janine Kaiser, Cuyahoga County
Kristin Koester, Seneca County
Sara Madden, Richland County
Sarah Madjohden, Ashland County
Luz Martinez, Cuyahoga County
Christia Matthey, Medina County
Pamela McCoy, Fairfield County
Keesha McGee, Highland County
Jennifer Montoney, Huron County
Christine Murphy, Putnam County
Alecia Murray, Allen County
Adam Nation, Cuyahoga County
Talisa Norman, Cuyahoga County
Lindsey Parker, Lawrence County

Michelle Peake-Warren, Allen County
Brittany Pope, Cuyahoga County
Carolyn Powell, Butler County
Ami Presley, Williams County
Raegan Presnell, Lucas County
Eman Qeshta, Warren County
Ron Rees, Washington County
Daniel Rogers, Delaware County
Hayllie Schmucker, Tuscarawas County
Julie Senff, Wayne County
Lisa Sensale Yazdian, Butler County
Melissa Shaw, Knox County
Amy Shideler, Cuyahoga County
Tania Shinkawa, Geauga County
Debra Siegel, Cuyahoga County
Gwen Simmons, Cuyahoga County
Chardonnay Starr, Hamilton County
Suzanna Thiese, Summit County
Tyra Thomas, Franklin County
Patricia Tomlinson, Stark County
Dawn Turner, Belmont County
Kamilah Twymon, Franklin County
Holly Unger, Licking County
Eric Unger, Licking County
Katie Wallace, Campbell County
Chanda Williams, Cuyahoga County
Bernie Willis, Clark County
Robbie Willis, Cuyahoga County
Amy Wright, Fayette County
Kathi Yevtich, Fulton County

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Visit: groundworkohio.org/parents

