

Prioritize Child Care & the Child Tax Credit in the State Budget

AN OPEN LETTER TO POLICYMAKERS

May 22, 2025

Dear Members of the Ohio General Assembly,

As women leaders, advocates, and organizations dedicated to the well-being of Ohio’s families, we stand together in strong support of the child care and Child Tax Credit investments included in Governor DeWine’s Executive Budget Proposal. These investments are critical to strengthening Ohio’s workforce, supporting working mothers, and ensuring that every child has a strong start in life.

We celebrate Governor DeWine’s proposal to expand access to affordable child care so that families up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level can access quality care through Publicly Funded Child Care and the Child Care Choice Voucher program. Additionally, we commend the proposal to establish a refundable state Child Tax Credit for working parents who have young children. This investment, totaling \$890 million over the biennium, would provide much-needed financial relief to working families and help parents afford the high costs of raising young children.

While these proposed investments are a step in the right direction, Ohio’s women and families still face persistent barriers to economic stability, with child care remaining one of the most significant challenges. Affordable, accessible, and high-quality child care is essential for working parents—particularly mothers—who often must choose between providing financially for their family and caregiving responsibilities due to the lack of viable care options.

The data is clear:

- Female-headed households are more than three times as likely as all Ohio households to live in poverty.
- Having young children in the household increases the likelihood of living in poverty four-fold.
- More than 6 in 10 Ohio mothers with children under five who do not currently work full-time (61%) say they would return to work if they had access to high-quality, affordable child care.

The lack of sufficient child care options not only impacts families but also hinders Ohio’s economic growth. Women play a critical role in our state’s workforce, yet too many are forced to scale back their careers or leave the workforce altogether due to child care barriers. When we invest in child care, we invest in the economic mobility of women, the success of children, and the prosperity of our communities.

We urge you to protect and expand these vital investments in child care and family economic stability during this year’s budget process. The time to act is now. By prioritizing policies that make child care more affordable and accessible, Ohio can empower women, strengthen families, and build a more resilient economy.

We, the undersigned, call on Ohio’s leaders to ensure that child care and Child Tax Credit investments remain a top priority in the final state budget. We stand ready to partner with you in advancing these critical issues for women, children, and families across Ohio.



Anju Abdullah, Cuyahoga County
Julia Abiecunas, Summit County
Angela Abram, Franklin County
Susan Ackerman, Franklin County
Hersh Agarwal, Cuyahoga County
Gabriel Alexander, Franklin County
Cheryl Amborski, Lucas County
Shannon Amos, Franklin County
Tiara Anderson, Cuyahoga County
Chandol Anderson, Franklin County
Scott Andrews, Lucas County
Suzanne Appel, Cuyahoga County
Nan Archbold, Cuyahoga County
Nadia Arez, Cuyahoga County
Emily Argo-Tate, Richland County
Tiffany Ashley, Cuyahoga County

Katie Ashwill, Ashtabula County
Olivia Nichole Atley, Franklin County
Sa'Sha Augustine, Cuyahoga County
Trina Averette, Franklin County
Rebecca Baas, Cuyahoga County
Julie Babcock, Lorain County
Judy Back, Seneca County
Sherrie Bair, Montgomery County
Heather Baker, Butler County
Catherine Ballentine, Tuscarawas County
Quay Barnes, Franklin County
Charnon Nicole Barnes, Franklin County
Gloria Bashore, Miami County
Randi Bates, Franklin County
Kim Batts, Franklin County
Carole Beaty, Cuyahoga County

Molly Becker, Clermont County
Ellen Belcher, Montgomery County
Lynn Belhorn, Franklin County
Allana Bell, Franklin County
Libby Bender-Benton, Cuyahoga County
Douglas Bennett, Cuyahoga County
Leisa Benton, Fairfield County
Samantha Bernard, Cuyahoga County
Janey Betz, Franklin County
Bonnie Bishop, Lucas County
Reed Bizzari, Belmont County
Monica Black, Butler County
Alison Black, Cuyahoga County
Lori Black, Pickaway County
Riley Blevins, Hamilton County
Jolene Bloomquist, Stark County



Genia Blount-Hendrix, Franklin County	Destiny Davis, Delaware County	Karen Gruenewald, Geauga County	Arganise Kline, Franklin County
Susan Blust, Montgomery County	Megan Davis, Franklin County	Jeffrey Gundy, Allen County	Megan Kloss, Franklin County
Dawn Blythe, Van Wert County	Garri Davis, Hamilton County	Lynanne Gutierrez, Franklin County	Hayeden Klump, Highland County
Prince Bonsu, Fairfield County	Sherry Day, Franklin County	Carly Habenschuss, Franklin County	Ashlee Kohler, Wood County
Tasha Booker, Franklin County	Elizabeth De Luca-Kontchou, Franklin County	Bri Hairston, Franklin County	Rachel Konerman, Hamilton County
Mabel Booker, Hamilton County	Eva Delk, Lucas County	A'yanna Hall, Franklin County	Molly Kowaleski, Franklin County
Ashleigh Bope, Franklin County	Shauna Dewey, Lorain County	Tamra Hall, Pickaway County	Susan Kramer, Franklin County
Karen Borgert, Montgomery County	Laura DiCola, Summit County	Sarra Hamilton, Franklin County	Amy Kronberg, Greene County
Kristen Bortle, Licking County	Iselin Dimacchia, Cuyahoga County	Jill Hammonds, Fairfield County	James Krueger, Franklin County
Brittany Boulton, Franklin County	Barb Dolejs, Cuyahoga County	Erica Hamptom, Franklin County	Sara Krugman, Franklin County
Shirley Bovee, Seneca County	Amber Doll, Lorain County	Kristi Hannan, Lucas County	MaryLee Kubasta, Medina County
Madeline Bowsher, Hamilton County	Dr Tameka Donaldson, Pickaway County	Andrea Harless, Franklin County	Nancy Kuhel, Franklin County
Jena Bradley, Hamilton County	Shannon Donelson, Ashland County	Susan Harris, Butler County	Jodi Kulka, Montgomery County
Holle Brambrick, Lorain County	Eileen Donnally, Franklin County	Michelle Harris, Cuyahoga County	Mary Land, Hamilton County
Christina Brayton, Franklin County	Jonathan Dorcely, Lucas County	Malissa Harris, Franklin County	Mary Lou Langenhop, Knox County
Yunus Brevik, Greene County	Rebekah Dorman, Cuyahoga County	Jamie Harter, Wood County	Mary Lanham, Lake County
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Ruth Brindle, Clinton County	Laverne Dotson, Franklin County	Amanda Hayes, Guernsey County	Elizabeth Lanphier, Hamilton County
Sandra Brogdon, Franklin County	Barbara Dotts, Hamilton County	Roseann Hayes, Hamilton County	Amanda Laskowski, Hamilton County
Susan Brown, Lucas County	Angela Doyle, Hamilton County	Jessica Heard, Hamilton County	Melinda Laudonia, Lorain County
Rodnell Brown, Summit County	Shannon Drake, Cuyahoga County	Debora Held, Franklin County	Rachel Layne-Schaffer, Delaware County
Mandi Buchwald, Franklin County	Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County	Sophia Helms, Hamilton County	Andii Layton, Franklin County
Robert Buescher, Montgomery County	Sister Sally Duffy SC, Hamilton County	Rachel Herring, Cuyahoga County	Ashley Leadingham, Richland County
Samantha Buhrts-O'Neal, Franklin County	Sarah Dunbar, Lucas County	Elizabeth Hibbs, Summit County	Larissa Lee, Washington County
Christopher Burns, Hamilton County	Jaclyn Dynia, Franklin County	ShaRae Hicks, Shelby County	Lori LeGendre, Lucas County
Kay Burns, Montgomery County	Leigh Anne Easterling, Franklin County	Melanie Hill, Franklin County	Penny Leming, Montgomery County
Lisa Buschmann, Lucas County	Darcy Edelman, Cuyahoga County	Shelley Hill, Madison County	Lauren Letcher, Cuyahoga County
Dan Butler, Delaware County	Julie Ehemann, Shelby County	Amy Hiner, Richland County	Nina Lewis, Hamilton County
Darius Butler, Delaware County	Maggie Ellison, Franklin County	Camilla Hinsch, Hamilton County	DaJuana Lewis, Montgomery County
Dyan Butler, Delaware County	Amber Elzer, Cuyahoga County	Dana Hoff, Fairfield County	Nicole Liatos, Cuyahoga County
Vanessa Butler, Franklin County	Scott Ernst, Cuyahoga County	Bianca Holder, Cuyahoga County	Deborah Liffick, Fairfield County
Dan Butler III, Delaware County	Allison Erwin, Hamilton County	Jeni Hoover, Lorain County	Robyn Lightcap, Montgomery County
Ashley Cage, Montgomery County	Amy Esser, Shelby County	Alexis Huber, Franklin County	Tracie Lindstrom, Hamilton County
Gabriella Cajuste, Franklin County	Sara Evelyne, Stark County	Erika Huffman, Cuyahoga County	Shaun Linton, Licking County
Teyaunna Calhoun, Butler County	Melinda Ewing, Columbiana County	Johonna Hughes, Franklin County	Paula Litton, Fairfield County
Melena Campbell, Hamilton County	Jennifer Ey, Licking County	Karen Hughes, Franklin County	Renée Locke, Hamilton County
Veronica Campbell, Stark County	Kelly Fackel, Montgomery County	Margaret Hulbert, Hamilton County	Peggy Loehrke, Lucas County
Sara Canterbury, Franklin County	Susan Farrell, Hancock County	Alicia Humphries, Franklin County	Sara Loken, Franklin County
Alison Carnevale, Hamilton County	Joanne Federman, Cuyahoga County	Troy Hunter, Franklin County	Maya Loken, Franklin County
Sarah Carpenter, Hamilton County	Caitlin Feldman, Franklin County	Janice Hunter, Hamilton County	Michael Long, Cuyahoga County
Charlene Carroll, Summit County	Wendy Ferkany, Franklin County	Millicent Hurtt, Franklin County	Gabriela Lopez, Cuyahoga County
Keri Carter-Moore, Hamilton County	James Flynn, Cuyahoga County	Elisa Huss-Hage, Lucas County	Yenifer Lopez, Hamilton County
Hannah Carver, Hamilton County	Amy Fogel, Montgomery County	Alissa Huth-Bocks, Cuyahoga County	Sherry Loschi, Montgomery County
Lisa Casassa, Trumbull County	Jennifer Foster, Hamilton County	Mariah Iron Necklace, Montgomery County	Kaylee Louis, Tuscarawas County
Whitney Cassady, Franklin County	Jennifer Fowler, Warren County	Candice Isabell, Cuyahoga County	John Lundine, Franklin County
Holly Castro, Cuyahoga County	Jennifer Fox, Summit County	Starlett Isles, Stark County	Pia Lynch, Hamilton County
Lisa Cayard, Warren County	Andrea Freeman, Franklin County	Brittney Jackson, Cuyahoga County	Angela Faye Lyshe-Thierry, Hamilton County
Michael Chambers, Richland County	Twinkle French Schottke, Franklin County	Sharon Jackson, Cuyahoga County	Deborah MacDonald, Summit County
Nan Chelette, Montgomery County	Vanessa Freytag, Hamilton County	Brittany Jackson, Franklin County	Cassandra MacDonald, Union County
Amy Cheney, Hamilton County	Laura Gaertner, Cuyahoga County	Katherine Jackson, Franklin County	Yolanda Mahoney, Summit County
Yvonne Cherell, Franklin County	Katie Gaine-West, Montgomery County	Chara Fisher Jackson, Hamilton County	Sangita Malik, Cuyahoga County
Emma Chini, Charleston County	Jeanne Galle, Montgomery County	Pamela Jacques, Montgomery County	Roxanne Malone, Montgomery County
Katie Christy, Clark County	Lisa Garofalo, Hamilton County	Kim James, Cuyahoga County	Nicole Malveaux, Hamilton County
Sommer Clayborne, Lucas County	Maureen Garrity, Lorain County	Victoria Jamison, Hamilton County	Lisa Mandelert, Morrow County
Cierra Colahan, Franklin County	Monica Gaulden, Cuyahoga County	Al Jenkins, Lorain County	Kayla Mannon, Wood County
Susie Colahan, Franklin County	Alexa Geiger, Lorain County	Patricia Jennings, Franklin County	Latoria Marcellus, Montgomery County
Dondra Coleman, Lucas County	Jill Gentile, Defiance County	Jennifer Johnson, Cuyahoga County	Martha Marshall, Clark County
Brenda Collins, Hamilton County	Emily Gessner, Lucas County	Dominique Johnson, Franklin County	Angela Martin, Franklin County
Diane Collins, Ross County	Anna Gibson, Franklin County	Nicole Johnson, Hamilton County	Michelle Mathile, Montgomery County
Lori Compton, Knox County	Jacqueline Giddings, Trumbull County	Valicia Johnson, Hamilton County	Mary Maune, Hamilton County
Michaela Copas, Delaware County	Kim Ginn, Clermont County	Sarah Johnson, Hancock County	Caitlin Mayifilua, Franklin County
Carolyn Corley, Lucas County	Letha Glas, Cuyahoga County	Jeri Johnson, Muskingum County	Brittney McCarey, Franklin County
Jessica Cornett, Franklin County	Don Glas, Cuyahoga County	Pamela Jones, Cuyahoga County	Kiersten McCarty, Gallia County
Shayna Coronado, Allen County	Patricia Gleason, Hamilton County	Kari Jones, Franklin County	Malori McCloskey, Lucas County
Rachael Covan, Summit County	Katherine Glenn-Applegate, Franklin County	Anne Jones, Hardin County	Maddie McClung, Franklin County
Audra Crafter Porter, Cuyahoga County	Kaitlyn Goldsmith, Franklin County	Christina Jones, Mahoning County	Mary McCourt, Montgomery County
Kwankisha Crawford, Cuyahoga County	LaTishia Gomez, Cuyahoga County	Cherrian Jones, Summit County	Pamela McCoy, Fairfield County
Nancy Crawford, Delaware County	Marilyn Gonzalez, Cuyahoga County	Shannon Jones, Warren County	Rebecca McCoy, Franklin County
Emily Cresswell, Montgomery County	Cassandra Goodpaster, Warren County	Monique Katsuki, Cuyahoga County	Shea McHugh, Franklin County
Karen Crockett, Franklin County	Jacqueline Goodrum, Cuyahoga County	Laurie Katz, Franklin County	Christin McIlwain, Hamilton County
Sandy Crowell, Hamilton County	Whitney Gordon, Franklin County	Jennifer Keathley, Lorain County	Cara McIlwaine, Hamilton County
Tranika Cruz, Ashtabula County	Erica Gordon, Warren County	Katherine Keber, Franklin County	Makiva McIntosh, Franklin County
Jodi Cunningham, Hamilton County	Merydith Greene, Franklin County	Marcie Keith, Clermont County	Beth McIntyre, Mahoning County
Rochelle Cunningham, Hamilton County	Nanette Greene, Summit County	Carrie Kerby, Preble County	Sharon McJannet, Franklin County
Renee Currie, Lucas County	Mary Grisez, Stark County	Keely Kirkbride, Muskingum County	Jennifer McMullen, Lake County
Louisa Dallett, Franklin County	MaryAlice Gruenberg, Greene County	Karen Kirkland-Wyse, Lucas County	Lisa McNair, Franklin County
Elizabeth Daniels, Richland County		Carolyn Kiser, Miami County	Betty McNear, Cuyahoga County
Marissa Daniels, Richland County		Meredith Kitts, Franklin County	Penny Meeker, Lucas County
		Megan Kline, Columbiana County	Donna Melanson, Mahoning County

Donna Melanson, Mahoning County	Susan Rector, Franklin County	River Stepp, Lorain County	Denise Weiss, Pike County
Rajani Menon, Hamilton County	Tammy Redinger, Cuyahoga County	Denise Steward, Hamilton County	Joy Welch-Bey, Summit County
Ashley Miles, Cuyahoga County	Teresa Reid, Lake County	Tina Stewart, Montgomery County	Robert Welker, Hamilton County
Casey Millard, Summit County	Bethany Renner, Montgomery County	Julia Stoll, Summit County	Tatiana Wells, Cuyahoga County
Charles Miller, Franklin County	Brittany Reynolds, Cuyahoga County	Patricia Stone, Stark County	Elizabeth Wells, Licking County
Maria Miller, Franklin County	LouAnn Rhodes, Lorain County	Julie Stone, Warren County	Lisa Welsh, Franklin County
Solomon Miller, Franklin County	Marti Ridley, Franklin County	Alisa Stringer, Cuyahoga County	Linda West, Erie County
Jill Miller, Hamilton County	Valerie Riedthaler, Summit County	Emily Stupica, Geauga County	Samantha Whatley, Cuyahoga County
Caitlin Miller, Lorain County	Jennifer Rigano, Union County	Christine Sullivan, Stark County	Sandra White, Franklin County
Peggy Miller, Montgomery County	Lindsey Riley, Greene County	Cheryl Summers, Lorain County	Ally White, Franklin County
Jane Miller, Montgomery County	Faith Rivera, Franklin County	Kimberly Suwannasing, Ross County	Michele Whitehurst, Summit County
Alicia Million, Cuyahoga County	Tyree Rivers, Franklin County	Ashley Sweeney, Franklin County	Christina Wilcox, Franklin County
Barbara Mills, Greene County	Jazemon Robinson, Franklin County	Deanna Szente, Lorain County	Laura Wilcox, Franklin County
Emily Minarchek, Hamilton County	Jovanna Robinson, Franklin County	Coya Taylor, Butler County	Nichole Wilhelm, Franklin County
Amanda Minick, Franklin County	Yasmine Robles, Franklin County	Keisha Taylor, Franklin County	
Kimberly Minor, Franklin County	Jennifer Robles, Sandusky County	Adele Taylor, Mahoning County	
Karen Mintzer, Cuyahoga County	Emily Rodenbeck, Monroe County	Carrie Taylor, Montgomery County	
Maureen Mitchell, Franklin County	Veranda Rodgers, Cuyahoga County	ShaRae Taylor-Hicks, Shelby County	
Lynn Mitchell, Franklin County	Judy Romano, Belmont County	Erin Tebben, Franklin County	
Barbara Mitchum, Hamilton County	Cristina Romero, Hamilton County	Rachel Tester, Miami County	
R. Mock, Franklin County	Tiffany Rowland, Lucas County	Emily Thobe, Butler County	
Maryrose Molnar, Cuyahoga County	Dawn Roza, Hamilton County	Stephanie Thomas, Warren County	
Emily Molter, Hamilton County	Marissa Runo, Richland County	Antonia Thompson, Franklin County	
Leslie Mooney, Hamilton County	Kelly Russell, Lorain County	Nadine Thompson, Hamilton County	
Jennifer Moore, Franklin County	Erin Rutter, Clark County	Garrer Thompson, Miami County	
Arica Morgan, Franklin County	Michelle Ryder, Lorain County	Kristi Thompson, Perry County	
Hayley Morrison, Fairfield County	Bianca Rylee, Licking County	Julie Thorner, Montgomery County	
Pam Mortensen, Butler County	Caryn Salts, Lucas County	Kimberly Tice, Morrow County	
Molly Moser, Cuyahoga County	Samantha Sams, Hamilton County	Qianna Tidmore, Summit County	
Lisa Much, Franklin County	Lauren Sands, Franklin County	Stacy Timm, Summit County	
Natasha Mullins, Montgomery County	Mary Jane Sanese, Franklin County	Mike Tinlin, Portage County	
Cheryl Munson, Allen County	Whitney Saunders, Franklin County	Christine Tobias, Cuyahoga County	
CJ Murphy, Franklin County	April Sawyers, Hamilton County	Zdravka Todorova, Montgomery County	
Robert Naumoff, Franklin County	Brandy Scheetz, Medina County	Taylor Toerner, Hamilton County	
Meghann Naveau, Greene County	AnnMarie Schmursal, Clark County	Denise Toms, Franklin County	
Lorena Nelson, Franklin County	Carey Schmitt, Franklin County	Michelle Toney, Hamilton County	
Maggie Nelson, Hamilton County	Abigail Schock, Stark County	Danielle Tong, Franklin County	
Sharon Nelson, Kenton County	Jamie Schoelkopf, Franklin County	Kadijah Torian, Franklin County	
Courtney Nerad, Lorain County	Kelly Schumann, Clark County	Samara Townsend, Cuyahoga County	
Mindy Nickles, Clark County	Taneshia Scott, Montgomery County	Kiana Trabue, Hamilton County	
Jenn Nolt, Licking County	Stephanie Seefeldt, Delaware County	Rozalyn Trego, Delaware County	
Courtney Norris, Franklin County	Tammi Seifert, Cuyahoga County	Alison Tucker, Pickaway County	
Julie Norton Norton, Richland County	Rachel Selby, Montgomery County	Erin Tupper, Lucas County	
Chad Nunamaker, Montgomery County	Isa shakir, Hamilton County	Dawn Turner, Belmont County	
Jacob Oates, Franklin County	Mardia Shands, Butler County	Holly Unger, Licking County	
Maria Ocasio, Cuyahoga County	Kris Sharp, Hamilton County	Lynn Urban, Knox County	
Renee Orozco, Franklin County	Michelle Shelton, Hamilton County	Rene Ury, Stark County	
Marangely Ortiz, Cuyahoga County	Jennifer Sherman, Montgomery County	Carla Valladares, Hamilton County	
Jessica Otis, Hamilton County	Pam Shuck, Summit County	Gina VanCant, Summit County	
Teresa Pagan, Lorain County	Rev. Dr. David Sickles, Lake County	April Vanover, Miami County	
Angie Page, Madison County	Gretchen Silbaugh, Lake County	Maria Vasquez, Lorain County	
Joyce Page, Montgomery County	Gwen Simmons, Cuyahoga County	Kelly Velazquez, Gallia County	
Santhi Chitra Paladugu, Hamilton County	Fatimah Simmons, Cuyahoga County	Libby Villavicencio, Franklin County	
Lori Pamer, Portage County	Terri Simons, Franklin County	Kate Vinciquerra, Cuyahoga County	
Holly Pangrace, Cuyahoga County	Jo Ellen Simonsen, Wyandot County	Ellen Vohsing, Cuyahoga County	
Tami Parker, Franklin County	Lester Simpson, Franklin County	Dinah Volk, Lorain County	
Jessica Parker, Knox County	Janine Sims, Lucas County	Elizabeth Wagner, Greene County	
Betsy Partridge, Montgomery County	Sachika Singh, Hamilton County	Dominique Walker, Hamilton County	
Gayle Pavlofsky, Franklin County	Laurie Sironen-Kroft, Cuyahoga County	Erica Walker, Montgomery County	
Zohar Perla, Hamilton County	Taylor Small, Franklin County	Kim Wallace, Knox County	
Jane Pernicone, Cuyahoga County	Jamella Smith, Cuyahoga County	Takia Waller, Franklin County	
Jennifer Peters, Licking County	Kierra Smith, Franklin County	Megan Walsh, Cuyahoga County	
Will Petrik, Franklin County	Hannah Smith, Franklin County	Meredith Walstra, Franklin County	
Julie Piazza-King, Cuyahoga County	Hannah Smith, Franklin County	Jennifer Walton, Franklin County	
Tamika Pierce, Franklin County	Lee Smith, Kenton County	Lynn Ward, Cuyahoga County	
Tina Pierce, Franklin County	Stefani Smithburger, Cuyahoga County	Janeece Warfield, Montgomery County	
Gina Pratt, Hamilton County	Donna Solovey, Pickaway County	Edie Warner, Franklin County	
Gina Prendergast, Richland County	Margo Sommerville, Summit County	Rhonda Washington, Franklin County	
Beth Price, Cuyahoga County	Kate Sorokas, Lorain County	Olivia Weinstock, Franklin County	
Vicki Prokesh, Cuyahoga County	Kimberly Spears, Stark County	Meghan Weintraub, Cuyahoga County	
Annette Quallen, Hamilton County	Deborah Squillace, Franklin County		
Edwin Quinones, Franklin County	Richard Stacklin, Lorain County		
Nicolette Rader, Hamilton County	Linda Staley, Hamilton County		
Anne Raley, Cuyahoga County	LeAnn Starlin Nilsson, Summit County		
Charu Ramanathan, Cuyahoga County	Leon Stauffer, Stark County		
Frances Ramos, Franklin County	Laura Steinmaus, Franklin County		
Susan Randolph, Fulton County	Jacey Step, Lorain County		
Jamee Range, Stark County			
Catherine Rauch, Montgomery County			
Dani Raymond, Lucas County			

