

Child Care Education and Engagement

September 1, 2022

The Legislative Study Committee on Publicly Funded Child Care and Step Up To Quality heard testimony from December 2021 through June 2022. Groundwork Ohio closed out this testimony in June with an elevated focus on family voice—showcasing both the Groundwork Ohio poll on voter’s dispositions toward child care and videos from the Family Action Network. The Committee will resume their meetings on September 21, 2022. Over the summer, the committee has received and reviewed recommendations, including a letter from Groundwork Ohio signed by several of our child care partners.

Time to Take Action!

Groundwork Ohio is asking our child care partners to act in the following ways.

1. **Identify local legislators, with a focus on members of the House of Representatives.** *Groundwork Ohio can assist in identifying legislators in your community and can provide preparation coaching—please reach out to us to connect.*
2. **Meet with legislators and legislative candidates between Labor Day and the November election to make the case for quality child care. Invite legislators and candidates to join you at your table for the [Vote for Ohio Kids Leadership Forum](#).** *Need support planning for a meeting? [Start here](#) and reach out to our team to connect.*
3. **Schedule at least two site visits with legislators and legislative candidates at local child care providers.** *Need support planning for a site visit? [Start here](#) and reach out to our team to connect.*
4. **Share your advocacy on social media.** *Need support leveraging social media? [Start here](#) and reach out to our team to connect.*

Key Messages

1. Access to quality child care and early learning is critical for families, the workforce and the healthy development of young children.
2. The system challenges are solvable, but they are substantial because they have been neglected for so long.
3. All solutions to improve the foundation of Ohio’s child care system require increased investment. Any cut to funding of the child care system will exacerbate an already dire situation and lead to the system’s ultimate collapse.

Critical Legislative Actions

1. Increase eligibility for Ohio’s Publicly Funded Child Care from 142% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
2. Require reimbursement practices to align funding to the actual cost of quality care and direct dollars to the workforce.
3. Incentivize quality care and early learning opportunities for infants and toddlers.