



Senator Gavarone,

We want to again thank you for your participation in our recent childcare roundtable on Monday, April 26. Your time, attention and commitment to the wellbeing of our community's children is greatly appreciated.

Now that our Ohio Senators have the opportunity to submit amendments to House Bill 110 — **We again ask that you please consider expanding publicly funded childcare eligibility from 130 percent of the federal poverty level, to 150 percent of the federal poverty level.**

As you know, quality childcare is a key component to the success of our local and state economy. Having Ohio's youngest learners enrolled in care also means **more kids ready for kindergarten**, which correlates with long-term graduation rates. Increasing accessibility to childcare means that **more families are able to retain employment** and not have to change their working hours. Additionally, it means that childcare centers and care providers can **welcome more kids into their facilities**, sustaining their operations and offering their services to a wider community audience.

Such an expansion would give legislators, like yourself, a direct hand in keeping Ohioans working, in helping more families break the cycles of poverty, and ensuring that thousands of children have access to the care they deserve. We are happy to see the House take-up the Governor's recommendation of increasing publicly funded childcare to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, but we have the ability and opportunity to do more.

According to data from United Way's "Ohio ALICE Report" (asset limited, income constrained, employed): The average four person household in Lucas, Ottawa and Wood County, having two adults and two children, would need to budget \$1,474 per month, just to afford childcare. We also must note that 12,697 families, **with children**, currently live in poverty, while an additional 11,989 families, **with children**, are "asset limited" across these three counties.

**Imagine the financial burden we could help alleviate for working parents here in our state, if we created more supportive opportunities for childcare.**

We, childcare advocates and your local constituents, hope you support such an amendment in expanding access to the programs and interventions that directly uplift Ohio's children.

**PLEASE SEE COMMUNITY SIGNEES ON PAGE TWO...**



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United Way of Greater Toledo  
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& Ottawa counties



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