



March 25, 2021

Dear Representative,

United Way of Greater Toledo takes great pride in serving the residents of Lucas, Ottawa and Wood County. Being a leading funder of early childcare initiatives, and strong supporter of our childcare providers, I wanted to submit the following letter, asking that you and your colleagues consider the following amendment to House Bill 110, (Ohio's FY 2022-2023 budget).

Today, we urge you to consider expanding eligibility for the state's publicly funded child care subsidy; raising the current subsidy of 130 percent of the federal poverty level to 150 percent of the federal poverty level. By expanding eligibility, legislators like yourself will have a direct hand in keeping Ohioans working, helping more families break the cycles of poverty, and ensuring at least 14,000 more Ohio children have access to quality early learning.

To expound upon this further: 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.

Local providers and parents hope you will support this amendment, and expand access to the programs and interventions that directly support Ohio's children. If you or your staff would like to discuss this further, please feel free to email myself (address listed in my signature below) or our Sr. Director of Advocacy, Lucas Camuso-Stall at lucas.stall@unitedwaytoledo.org.

We look forward to serving as your ally, if ever you have questions on this particular matter.

Sincerely,

Wendy Pestrue, J.D.
President & Chief Executive Officer
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United Way of Greater Toledo
Serving Lucas, Wood,
& Ottawa counties