



June 7, 2021

Dear Representative,

Today, United Way of Greater Toledo and the YWCA of Northwest Ohio are urging you to protect and defend access to quality childcare, as it relates to the Senate's recent release of their sub-bill for H.B. 110 (state budget).

Childcare providers and parents in our communities appreciate the Senate Finance Committee further expanding publicly funded childcare eligibility from the House's proposed 138% of the federal poverty level, to their proposed 142% of the federal poverty level. Despite this step, the Ohio Senate is moving to effectively **end Step Up to Quality**, Ohio's five-star quality rating and improvement system. Additionally, the Senate is looking to impose debilitating restrictions on federal emergency dollars designated to Ohio through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the American Rescue Plan, all designed to strengthen early learning systems and the early education workforce.

As H.B. 110 moves to Conference Committee, **we are calling on our Ohio House of Representative Members to restore language regarding Step Up to Quality; remove restrictions on federal childcare spending; and maintain the expansion of publicly funded childcare eligibility.**

It is clear that, after the release of the House's sub-bill, our Representatives left Step Up to Quality in-tact because you understand its importance and value. "Quality" is more than just nice verbiage applied to childcare centers – it is how we ensure our kids are engaging in educationally enriching environments and therefore are ready to enter kindergarten.

Please know that United Way, YWCA, countless private donors and corporations have donated a tremendous amount of money to help childcare centers achieve a quality rating. **Terminating Step Up to Quality essentially reverses that hard work and those ongoing investments from your constituents.**

If you have any additional questions, please reach out. Your voice is needed now, more than ever!

Sincerely,

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