



Dear Representative,

On behalf of United Way of Greater Toledo, serving Lucas, Ottawa and Wood County: I wanted to reaffirm our organization's support for Governor DeWine's Executive Budget line-item on raising family income eligibility requirements for publicly funded childcare **from 130 percent to 138 percent** of the federal poverty level, and **150 percent** of the federal poverty level for special needs children here in Ohio.

For years, childcare advocates have urged our elected officials to closely reexamine eligibility requirements and consider increasing the current 130 percent threshold. Though an eight percent expansion may not seem like a dramatic change, any policies that broaden eligibility for families to access childcare is monumental.

Many mothers, fathers, guardians and family units often fall victim to the "benefits cliff," meaning that a slight change in income can disqualify them from the services they depend on. Expanding Ohio's income eligibility requirements for publicly funded childcare means that kids here in our state can receive the educational care they need.

At United Way of Greater Toledo, childcare is viewed as a multifaceted economic issue. Having Ohio's youngest learners enrolled in care also means **more kids ready for kindergarten**. 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.

Today, we, and our childcare partners, urge you to preserve this measure through budget negotiations. If there was an issue that we all can come together in agreement, it is that children deserve high-quality care and support. 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  
United Way of Greater Toledo



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United Way of Greater Toledo  
Serving Lucas, Wood,  
& Ottawa counties