



Dear Senator,

On behalf of United Way's partners in Lucas, Ottawa and Wood counties: **We want to urge the U.S. Senate** to pass the Child Care is Essential Act (S. 3874), which would allocate \$50 billion dollars to the Child Care Development Block Grant, helping childcare providers across Ohio and the U.S. uphold financially strenuous operational protocols during this difficult time.

The Child Care is Essential Act was passed by the U.S. House (H.R. 7027) and then delivered to the U.S. Senate for voting consideration, where it has sat untouched since July 30, 2020. It is **imperative that our elected leaders continue to seek action-steps**, and advocate to their fellow members of Congress, to bolster childcare in your state.

Robust, high-quality early learning centers are key to a child's long-term cognitive development and academic success. Secondly, the existence of childcare resources allows working parents to return to full-time employment, keeping businesses operating via a strong, local workforce.

"Our Team Members who are parents and caregivers face unprecedented challenges as they attempt to balance the demands of work, home schooling and the need for childcare, which has become increasingly difficult to secure due to the pandemic. We have an ongoing responsibility to partner with our Team Members and extend flexibility, when able."
- Justin J. Carter, General Manager, Hollywood Casino Toledo

"Dana understands how challenging this current environment is, as our employees are navigating work demands with ever-changing home lives as a result of COVID. We are offering flexibility where we can, while still ensuring that we serve the needs of our customers. We are also relying on the outstanding services of United Way, whose many partners and volunteers help to provide timely information and resources working families need. This includes childcare and caregiver services, online school support, and meal and financial assistance, in addition to many other family support services."
- Shelley Bridarolli, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Dana, Inc.

The impact of dwindling childcare, as well as rising expenses associated with childcare, is having an adverse impact on leading companies and businesses across our region. This also takes a severe toll on the financial stability of homes for families with children.

We appreciate you taking the time to talk with local childcare experts and providers in Lucas, Ottawa and Wood County in late June. Please know that United Way is here as a resource for you and your office in analyzing policies or designing legislation that will help **save childcare in Ohio**.

Wendy Pestruce, J.D.



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



**UNITED WAY
YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED.**

President & CEO
United Way of Greater Toledo



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