

Vermont's Child Care Campaign

2023 SUMMER UPDATE

Your Support in Action

2023 GOALS

With your support in 2023 we aimed to...

- » **INSPIRE VERMONTERS** to join the child care campaign and support increased investments in Vermont's child care system.
- » **PASS THE 2023 CHILD CARE BILL** by supporting policymakers to take bold action on child care during the legislative session.
- » **SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS** with resources, tools, and training to strengthen the current child care system in partnership with organizations that will support the system long-term.

OUR PROGRESS TOGETHER

Since January, we...

- » **WELCOMED 1,862 NEW SUPPORTERS**, including 137 businesses and organizations that have endorsed Vermont's child care campaign, totaling 330 endorsers statewide.
- » **MADE HISTORY** with the passage of the 2023 Child Care Bill with overwhelming support from across the political spectrum. This bill will invest \$125 million into the child care system annually.
- » **SUPPORTED 445 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS** in business administration programs and technical assistance, and supported child care programs in creating 202 new, high-quality child care spaces.

THE POWER OF VERMONTERS' VOICES

The passage of the 2023 Child Care Bill into law would not have been possible without Vermonters like you calling for change. In April, over 700 Vermonters gathered with over 100 lawmakers on the State House lawn at the Courage to Care Rally.

During the 2023 legislative session, 2,963 individuals contacted their legislators who, all told, received 12,768 emails with voters' child care stories, encouragement to pass the bill, and gratitude for lawmakers' leadership on this issue. We are so grateful to the thousands of Vermonters who made their voices heard by speaking with their legislators, testifying at the State House, and engaging their friends and neighbors in the campaign.



As a working professional and parent, I know first-hand how hard it is to find quality, affordable child care. After spending months commuting two hours a day for child care, my daughter is now attending a program in our community, and we are only driving 15 minutes down the road. **I'm already more productive and present at work, as is my husband, who runs a general contracting business.**

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NIKKI TETRAULT | Lamoille County Parent & Director of Marketing and E-Commerce, Instrumart, Campaign Endorser



A NOTE FROM ALY

Together, we made history. Thank you for being a part of this celebratory moment for Vermont, one that we as child care advocates, parents, employers, and lawmakers have been working towards for years. The 2023 Child Care Bill (Act 76) will change the lives of thousands of Vermonters and is a monumental step forward in addressing the child care crisis. The legislation increases access to quality, affordable child care for families, improves compensation and support for our essential early childhood educators, and provides much-needed relief for child care programs in every corner of the state. This bill secures Vermont's place as a national leader in child care and was made possible by the tens of thousands of Vermonters who made their voices impossible to ignore. **Our work does not stop today** – we'll be there every step of the way to support the success of this new law and we will keep pushing forward until quality, affordable child care is a reality.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Vermont's children, families, and communities. I look forward to our work together in the coming months!



This bill means programs like ours can offer more spots to more families. It means financial relief for families who attend our school. **It also means stability, as we can pay teachers closer to a living wage and retain our talented early childhood educators.**

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CHRISTINA GOODWIN | Executive Director, Pine Forest Children's Center

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A QUANTUM LEAP FORWARD

In June, the Vermont Legislature made history by passing the 2023 Child Care Bill (now Act 76) into law with overwhelming support from across the political spectrum. This law makes Vermont's child care system one of the most expansive in the nation with long-term, sustainable public investment in Vermont's early childhood education system. It will stabilize our workforce and economy, shape future generations, and create a more affordable Vermont.

Act 76 means:

- » **AFFORDABILITY:** Nearly 7,500 more children and their families will have access to child care financial assistance because of expanded eligibility.
- » **ACCESS:** Increased state funding will help bolster child care programs' staffing and capacity through readiness grants, higher reimbursement rates, and other financial incentives to programs.
- » **QUALITY:** Sustainable funding will lead to increased investment in Vermont's early childhood education workforce and sets the stage for minimum pay standards for early educators.

Act 76 moves us closer to achieving Vermont's Child Care Campaign goals of:

- » **AFFORDABILITY:** No family spends more than 10% of their household income on child care.
- » **ACCESS:** 100% of children ages birth to five have access to child care that meets their needs.
- » **QUALITY:** 100% of children ages birth to five are taught by prepared early childhood educators who are fairly compensated.

IMPLEMENTATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Let's Grow Kids is working to ensure successful implementation of the new law in partnership with state agencies, early childhood educators, and other system stakeholders. We continue to support immediate system needs through child care business and workforce development initiatives and capacity building grant programs. In December 2022, Senator Patrick Leahy directed \$10 million in funding to augment Let's Grow Kids' 6-year child care capacity building program. Let's Grow Kids is in the process of securing and regranting this funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to strengthen Vermont's child care infrastructure.

Your Support Makes A Difference!

THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS FOR YOU TO TAKE ACTION:

1. **Learn more** about Act 76 and help support its successful implementation.



2. **Give a gift** today!



We are investing in people and investing in families in this state. Passing this child care bill is one of the most important things we can do. **This shows the rest of the country what a state that truly supports families looks like.**

JILL KROWINSKI | Speaker of the House of Representatives



This child care bill represents the Legislature's unwavering commitment to transforming Vermont's child care system, making child care more accessible and affordable for thousands of Vermont families and improving compensation for early childhood educators. **This is what people-powered politics looks like.**

PHIL BARUTH | Senate President Pro Tempore