

# CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL

To Vermont's children, families, economy, and recovery. Now more than ever.

Child care is essential for Vermont families, but even before the pandemic, 3 out of 5 of Vermont's youngest children did not have access to the care they need. COVID-19 has only exacerbated already pressing challenges for families and early childhood educators. Without equitable access to a high-quality and affordable child care system, Vermont cannot fully recover and grow its workforce, support young families, or set its youngest residents up for future success in school, relationships, work, and life.

Together, with our 30,000 supporters, Let's Grow Kids is calling on the Vermont Legislature to undertake a 3-year process to transform child care for children birth to five.

- » **In 2021:** Our campaign will advance legislation (H.171) that lays the foundation of our future child care system by establishing state goals for child care affordability, access, and quality.
- » **In 2022:** Our campaign will support the stakeholder processes, complete legislative work, and, via the newly formed Let's Grow Kids Action Network, organize communities to support legislators who have championed child care legislation in the 2022 elections.
- » **In 2023:** Our campaign focus will be passing a revenue bill and fully implementing affordability, access, quality, and accountability measures.

**H.171, an act relating to the governance and financing of Vermont's child care system, takes crucial steps this year to move the state toward an equitable child care system that is:**

- » **Accessible:** Children from all backgrounds and abilities will have access to high-quality child care when and where they need it.
- » **Affordable:** No family will spend more than 10% of their income on child care.
- » **High-quality:** Every child will be taught by qualified early childhood educators who are fairly compensated and well-supported.
- » **Accountable:** The system will have well-coordinated and transparent governance, administrative, and accountability structures and resources.
- » **Sustainable:** Stable, long-term funding for the system will be secured.



**H.171 passed the House on a vote of 146-1 and passed the Senate on a vote of 30-0.**

**The two chambers are working to resolve the small differences between the two versions of the bill.**

Learn more and sign on in support of this policy agenda at: [letsgrowkids.org/policyagenda](https://letsgrowkids.org/policyagenda)

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## H.171 lays the foundation for Vermont's future child care system by advancing legislation that:

- » **Describes** goals for the state that families will spend no more than 10% of their annual income on child care and that Vermont's early childhood educators will be fairly compensated and well supported.
- » **Continues** the transformation of Vermont's Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) to expand eligibility to more families, reduce family co-pays, and increase reimbursements paid to child care programs.
- » **Strengthens** our early childhood education workforce by increasing investment in existing scholarships for current early childhood educators and creating a new scholarship program and student loan repayment support program for new early childhood educators.
- » **Upgrades** the failing IT system used to administer Vermont's early childhood education system.
- » **Analyzes** the early childhood education system in Vermont and develops recommendations on how to strengthen and streamline governance, administration, and accountability structures and resources.
- » **Strengthens** systems to ensure that voices of those most impacted by the system are informing the state's work to administer the child care system and allocate federal COVID response funds for child care.
- » **Charges** experts with identifying a stable, long-term funding source for a transformed child care system.

The time to act on child care is **NOW**. Sign on in support of this policy agenda at: [letsgrowkids.org/policyagenda](https://letsgrowkids.org/policyagenda)



THANK YOU FOR LEADING THE WAY  
TO A NEW REALITY WHERE...

~~3 in 5~~ of Vermont's youngest children ~~don't~~ have access to the child care they need. That means ~~too many~~ children are ~~missing out on~~ getting a strong start in life. Families ~~cannot afford child care~~, and early educators are ~~not~~ making a living. Communities are ~~struggling to be~~ healthy and vibrant, and **our shared future is not bright.**