

May 30, 2023

The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120
c/o Mike Vereb, Secretary of Legislative Affairs
mvereb@pa.gov

Harrisburg, PA 17120-3007
vincent.hughes@pasenate.com

The Honorable Kim Ward
President Pro Tempore, Senate of Pennsylvania
Senate Box 203039
292 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3039
kward@pasen.gov

The Honorable Joanna McClinton
Speaker, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
139 Main Capitol
PO Box 202191
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2191
jmcclinton@pahouse.net

The Honorable Joe Pittman
Leader, Senate of Pennsylvania
Senate Box 203041
350 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3041
jpittman@pasen.gov

The Honorable Matthew Bradford
Leader, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
110 Main Capitol Bldg.
PO Box 202070
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2070
mbradford@pahouse.net

The Honorable Scott Martin
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Box 203013
281 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3013
smartin@pasen.gov

The Honorable Jordan Harris
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
512E Main Capitol Bldg.
PO Box 202186
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2186
jharris@pahouse.net

The Honorable Jay Costa
Leader, Senate of Pennsylvania
Senate Box 203043
535 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3043
costa@pasenate.com

The Honorable Bryan Cutler
Leader, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
423 Main Capitol Bldg.
PO Box 202100
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2100
bcutler@pahousegop.com

The Honorable Vincent Hughes
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Box 203007
545 Main Capitol Bldg.

The Honorable Seth Grove
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
245 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202196
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2196
sgrove@pahousegop.com

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of the membership of our 50+ chambers of commerce, representing thousands of businesses across the Commonwealth, and the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association, we are contacting you about the childcare crisis that is plaguing families in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

We have heard from our member-employers from across the Commonwealth how the lack of accessible and affordable childcare is hampering their ability to hire because potential workers can either not find childcare or afford it. This impact to the workforce is negatively impacting the economy, costing employers \$2.88 billion and the state of Pennsylvania \$3.47 billion in losses each year, and thus we are recommending the PA General Assembly consider the following solutions:

- 1) **Employee Childcare Public Private Partnership** - Legislation to create a tax credit for employers who furnish employee childcare in the amount of the employer's cost in furnishing employee childcare. Legislation to incentivize employers to fund childcare for their employees by splitting the cost with the state, and providing tax credit incentives to employers who participate.
- 2) **Childcare Tax Credit for Parents** – Expanding the Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Program. Last year's budget included funds for up to 30% of childcare-related expenses that filers claim on their federal return. This program is meant to support working families by lessening their tax liability. A total of \$24.6 million went into the program for last FY and is now a permanent fixture of the state's tax code. However, expanding the program will allow more middle-income parents to return to the workforce.
- 3) **Retention and Recruitment** – Proposals potentially being considered during the current state budget negotiation to offer rebates/incentives for nursing, teaching and policing jobs should be extended to the childcare community. Hiring incentives would be a great first step to address the ongoing issue of low wages (\$12.43/hour statewide average) currently paid to childcare workers being a disincentive to join this critical field.
- 4) **Regulatory Reform** – The Chamber Community is advocating that any future regulatory proposals must ensure proper stakeholder input from childcare providers with special consideration to infant care. In addition, any changes do not lead to increased costs for providers.

Our 55 chambers have come together to show the strength of the business community in the Commonwealth and urge you and your colleagues to work across the aisle, with the private sector and the childcare industry, to consider the solutions above.

We look forward to continued interaction with you on this critical issue. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us if you have any questions or comments regarding the Chamber's childcare advocacy.

Sincerely,

Laura Manion
Chester County Chamber of
Business and Industry

Trish McFarland
Delaware County Chamber of
Commerce

Dan DeBone
Westmoreland County Chamber of
Commerce

With:
Kelly Goodman-Shaffer
Bedford County Chamber of Commerce

Amy Bradley
Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce

Joe Hurd
Blair County Chamber of Commerce

Kathy Henderson
Carbon Chamber and Economic Development
Corporation

Jordan Grady
Butler County Chamber of Commerce

Nicole Deary
Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce

Tea Jay Aikey
Central PA Chamber of Commerce

Greg Scott
Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County

Laura Manion
Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry

Courtney Herzing
Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry

Chris Berleth
Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce

Jeff Emanuel
Foundation of the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce

Steven L Christian
Cumberland Valley Business Alliance (CVBA)

Trish McFarland
Delaware County Chamber of Commerce

Jonathan Wright
Downington-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce

Lori L. Moran
East Liberty Quarter Chamber of Commerce

Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
Wendy Klinghoffer

Laurie Ryan
Exton Region Chamber of Commerce

Briana Tomack
Greater Latrobe - Laurel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce

Pamela Kelly
Greater Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

Chellie Cameron
Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce

Matt Smith
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce

Michelle Mikitish
Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce

Jim Gerlach
Greater Reading Chamber Alliance

Bob Durkin
Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce

Katie L. Walker
Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce

Lindsay Griffin-Boylan
Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce & Chamber of Business & Industry

Great Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce
Mary Ann Severance

Melody Longstreth
Greene County Chamber of Commerce

Beth Black
Grove City Area Chamber of Commerce

Ryan Unger
Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC

Yvonne Martin
Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce

Mark Hilliard
Indiana County Chamber of Commerce

Rhonda Kelley
Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce

Heather Valudes
Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce

Karen Groh
Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce

Amy Beitel
Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce

Rachel Cathell
Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce

Gina Grone
North Side/Shore Chamber of Commerce

Gina Suydam
Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce

Rosanne Barry Novotnak
Norwin Chamber of Commerce

Kevin Schreiber
York County Economic Alliance

Christine Grove
Oxford Area Chamber of Commerce

Steve McKnight
Pennsylvania Economic Development Association

Brian Schill
Peters Township Chamber of Commerce

Jessica Capistrant Remington
Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce

Cheryl B. Kuhn
Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce

Bernard Dagenais
The Main Line Chamber of Commerce

Robert S. Carl, Jr
The Schuylkill Chamber of Chamber

Eileen Dautrich
TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce

Chris Ardinger
Tuscarora Area Chamber of Commerce

Leanne Engle
Upper Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce

Susan Williams
Venango Area Chamber of Commerce

Dan DeBone
West Moreland County Chamber of Commerce

George Book Jr.
West Shore Chamber of Commerce