



# OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*COLUMBUS, OHIO – The below statement can be attributed to Ohio Chamber President & CEO Steve Stivers regarding the status of child care in Ohio.*

“As all industries struggle to attract and retain talent, the costs and scarcity of child care services are robbing our labor force of an entire demographic of skilled, educated and hardworking Ohioans. In a recent economic study, the direct financial impact to Ohio of insufficient child care coverage was found to be \$5.48 billion annually, including \$1.52 billion in missed annual tax revenue and \$3.97 billion in child care-related employee turnover and absenteeism costs to Ohio employers. Ohio needs to continue exploring new ways to make child care more affordable for working families, grow the supply of options throughout the state, and entice people to enter the early childhood caregiver vocation.

At the same time, the Ohio Chamber urges the state to do all it can to safeguard against waste, fraud and abuse by all entities entrusted with public funds. Across Ohio, nearly 9,000 licensed center-based, in-home, preschool, and school-age child care providers are providing quality services to families. Now is the time to rally behind our trusted providers to ensure Ohio’s infants, toddlers and preschoolers have enriching learning environments while their parents contribute to our workforce needs.

Child care remains a critical component of our workforce development landscape. The Ohio Chamber stands with our provider community and behind the efforts of Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Children and Youth to ensure the state has tools in place to detect, track and eliminate fraud and waste in the child care system. Meanwhile, we continue to urge the Ohio General Assembly to make greater investments in Ohio’s child care system that support working families, employers and child care providers. Because child care businesses operate with narrow margins, it is essential that state oversight efforts be paired with clear, consistent rules and predictable payment systems so these businesses can plan, hire and grow with confidence.”

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