

Sample Email to Candidates

This template is offered as a guide to communicate with candidates for office in the 2024 election. Please edit this to personalize it, and remember that sharing your own personal story about how these issues impact you and/or your community is always the most effective way to communicate with current and prospective policymakers.

Items that are highlighted are where you should add in your own information and must be changed.

As a [INSERT YOUR PROFESSIONAL TITLE, ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERTISE, OR PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ISSUE] from [INSERT CITY/COUNTY], I am writing to you on behalf of North Carolina's young children and families.

The earliest years of a child's life shape all the rest. During this time, our brains grow faster than any later point in our lives. If elected, you will make decisions that impact the lives of young children and families across our state, with effects now and in the future.

Each child is born with unlimited potential. Today's young children are our society's next generation of parents, workers, and leaders. That's why it's crucial that families have the tools they need to be able to work and support their children with safe and nurturing environments in their earliest years.

But right now, parents are struggling to find and afford child care, often waiting months - or even years - on waiting lists and paying more than college tuition once they do get a spot. At the same time, child care teachers earn less than most retail, fast food, or service workers, leading to high turnover and instability for young children, families, and communities. Additionally, businesses in nearly every sector have identified child care as a critical factor in their workforce challenges.

Parents can't afford to pay more, early educators can't afford to make less, and our economy can't thrive without a stable child care system.

[INSERT PERSONAL STORY ABOUT HOW THIS ISSUE(S) IMPACTS YOU]

Examples:

- *I am an early childhood teacher in [TOWN/COUNTY] and I love my job but I can't support my family on my child care salary.*
- *I am a child care center director in [TOWN/COUNTY] and I'm struggling to find staff and keep my program open.*
- *I am a parent of a toddler in [TOWN/COUNTY] and I can't find or afford high-quality child care.*
- *I own a business in [TOWN/COUNTY] and I have lost staff because they can't find or afford reliable child care.*

INSERT **KEY FACTS AND TALKING POINTS**

We need elected officials who will strengthen North Carolina's early childhood system infrastructure and make sure that children and families have access to policies, programs, and budgets that support their healthy development, early learning, and future success in school and in life.

The stakes are high! If elected, you have an opportunity to make bold progress on these issues and help ensure that children in North Carolina have what they need to thrive. I urge you to consider the needs of young children and families in our state during this election and beyond, and to make the potential of every child your top priority.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE/ORGANIZATION NAME]

[ADDRESS]