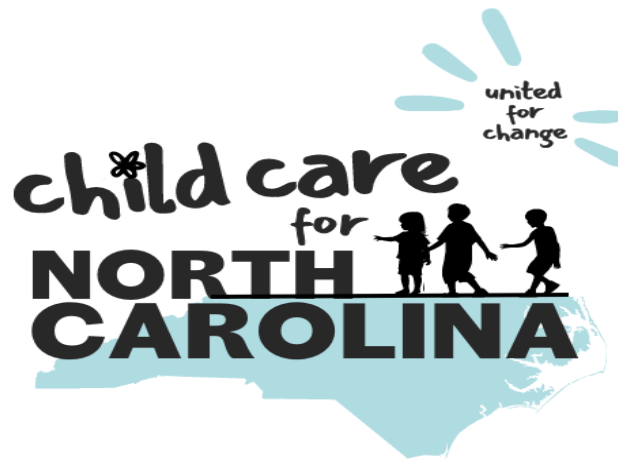




Templates for Contacting Policymakers

These templates are offered as a guide to communicate with [your own legislators](#) and other [key legislators](#) in the NC General Assembly. Please edit this to personalize it, and feel free to use additional [talking points](#) in the Child Care for NC Advocacy Toolkit. Remember, sharing your own personal story about how this is impacting you and your community is always the most effective way to communicate with policymakers.

Sample Email

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

Dear [Rep. OR Sen.] [INSERT CORRECT TITLE AND NAME],

Every young child in North Carolina deserves an opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. But right now, our state's child care system is in crisis, and too many children are missing out on foundational early care and learning. Families can't afford the high cost, teachers can't afford to work for such low wages, and providers can't afford to keep their doors open. Experts are estimating 1/3 of child care centers will close in the coming year if the general assembly doesn't act to continue compensation grants.

[SAY WHO YOU ARE, WHERE YOU LIVE, AND/OR WHAT YOU DO].

For example:

- *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.*

As our elected representatives in the general assembly, we need you to do everything you can to make child care funding and teacher pay a priority before a looming crisis hits our child care system in June, impacting our children, families, teachers, workplaces, and communities. The child care sector was unstable long before the pandemic and federal relief funding, and we can't depend on our current system to survive under these conditions any longer. We are closing for ONE DAY on May 16th so we don't have to close centers, family child care homes, and classrooms forever in the coming months.

[INSERT STORY OR DETAILS ABOUT YOUR CONCERN]

This funding cliff that will cause shockwaves across our state isn't inevitable. For less than 1% of the total budget, you can invest in our youngest learners, our vital workforce, and our future. I strongly urge you to show your investment in young children and families, businesses and employers, and for our state's economy by investing in a child care system that truly works for everyone, now and into the future.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE/ORGANIZATION NAME]

[ADDRESS]

Sample Phone Script

A few tips for calling legislators:

- *Make it personal: Why do you want your Senator or Representative to support increased funding for child care now?*
- *Allow response time: The person you are calling will likely be receiving many calls throughout the day. Speak from experience to make your call memorable, and have a conversation.*
- *Leave a message: If nobody answers your call, be sure to leave a message with the talking points below.*
- *Include a call to action: Make sure they know what you want and why you're calling!*

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

Hi, my name is [NAME] and I live in [YOUR TOWN/COUNTY]. I'm calling to ask you to do everything you can to make child care funding and teacher pay a priority before a

looming crisis hits our child care system in June. The underfunding of our child care system impacts our children, families, teachers, workplaces, employers, and communities. Families can't afford the high cost, teachers can't afford to work for such low wages, and providers can't afford to keep their doors open. Experts are estimating $\frac{1}{3}$ of child care centers will close in the coming year if the general assembly doesn't act to continue compensation grants.

[INSERT QUICK DETAIL ABOUT YOUR CONCERN FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE AS A TEACHER, PROVIDER, PARENT, OR COMMUNITY MEMBER]

This funding cliff that will cause shockwaves across our state isn't inevitable. For less than 1% of the total budget, you can invest in our youngest learners, our vital workforce, and our future. I strongly urge you to show your investment in young children and NC's future.

- [If negative reaction] I hope you reconsider. Everyone knows someone who depends on child care, but we can't depend on our current system to survive under these conditions any longer. Your constituents are counting on you to make sure that young children, families, and businesses have the early learning opportunities they need to thrive.
- [If positive reaction] Thank you for listening and for your support. I hope you'll continue pushing for increased funding for child care this session.