

## **WECAN Parent, Child Care Educator, and Employer Companion Survey Report**

(Survey Dates: 4/29/2023-5/9/2023)

Wisconsin Early Childhood Action Needed has sent out the Child Care Owners/Administrators survey results to you that summarized the impact that the loss of the successful Child Care Counts Stabilization funding would have on the child care businesses throughout the state. As a reminder wages in 2021 were \$10.66 for group center employees and this program has increased those wages to \$12.66 without large increases on tuition in 2022. Child Care Counts started December 2021. This companion report highlights the impacts those business decisions (close, raise tuition for parents/guardians about 25% per week, take away bonuses or decrease the wage of the employees) of the child care businesses will have on the broader community.

### **Current State of Child Care:**

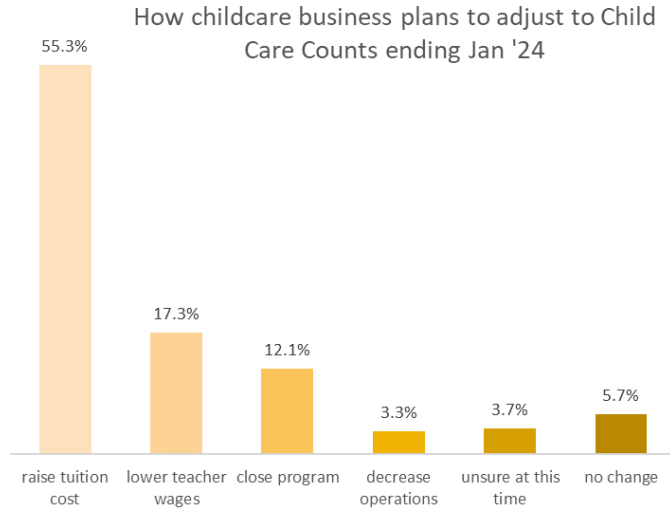
In 2007 there were 9,692 (7,196 family child care and 2,496 group) child care businesses. Today there are 4,215 (2,005 family and 2,210 group businesses). A loss of 5,477 child care businesses, almost all family child care businesses, impacting the rural areas significantly more than urban areas. Currently, according to [www.childcaregap.org](http://www.childcaregap.org) in Wisconsin: 288,430 children have the potential need for child care. There is a supply of 171,040 child care slots. The families of 117,090 children do not have access to child care. Child care gap: 40.6% of the potential need (RURAL areas are most in need). The long term economic impact ranges between \$4.2B and \$6.4B

However, 311 businesses responding with 5463 empty slots throughout the state, this is all Group Child Care Centers and Head Start as this doesn't apply to Family Child Care Centers. Those same businesses could be filled from their waitlists if they had teachers to open up the classrooms.

### **Of the 541 businesses responding**

- 124 child care businesses responded that they have shortened hours due to lack of staff
- 72 inform parents on occasion rooms are closed due to no staff (sometimes that morning)
- 18 are open only 4 days a week
- 2 are open only 3 days a week affecting 38 children
- 33 no longer offer overnight or weekend care In 2007 there were 9,692 (7,196 family child care and 2,496 group) child care businesses.

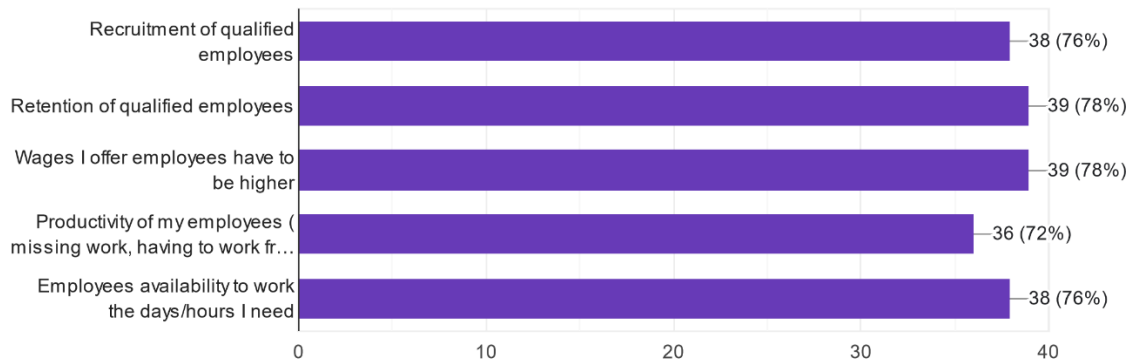
### **Business plan to offset the loss of this funding to continue operations:**



**Impact that the current lack of availability and affordability of child care currently has on employers:**

Currently child care affects the following (check all that apply)

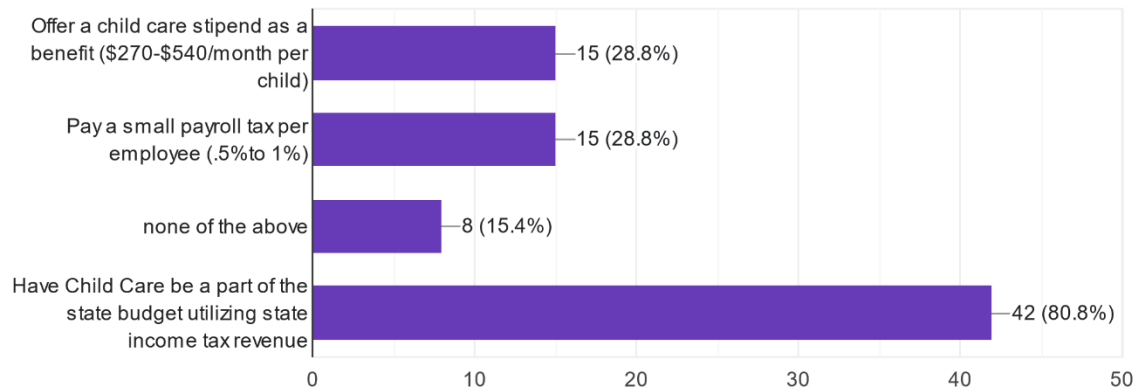
50 responses



**Employers willingness to do the following:**

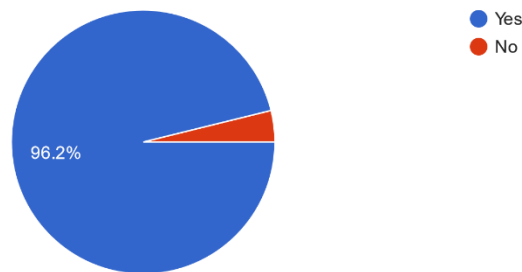
### I would be willing to (check all that apply)

52 responses



### I support at least \$300 million in the state budget to continue Child Care Counts

52 responses



### Comments from employers (Non child care as well as child care employers):

(54806) As a CPA firm we are familiar with budgets and understand the want to find money for other areas. However, we always fill in the essential lines first and allocate the money needed there so we can make sure we count them first. In my opinion i believe child care is an essential line to the budget and should be included.

(53566) There is a shortage of employees in my industry, and more of them are leaving because they cannot afford child care for multiple children.

(54880) With the child care counts was able finally pay myself and 1 employee plus used some of the money to give discount rate to families with 2 or more kids.

(54880) Would likely increase tuition to the parents to offset the lose in revenue. Getting paid under what employees at fast food restaurants, make for teaching and taking care of children is shameful.

(53574) There is a clear shortage of child care in our community

(53209) Child care is a infrastructure in our community and is HIGHLY needed. My staff is relying on us to pay a livable wage, and be able to keep our doors open so they can work. Our community needs us so that they can work with a piece of mind knowing their children are receiving high quality care.

(53188) We turn away children daily due to lack of staff. I can not hire staff at wages less that what a gas station pays. These employees are responsible for safeguarding and educating our most

precious resource and the future of our society. Our children deserve to have teachers who are well educated and compensated.

(53206) My childcare facility is vital to my neighborhood, without my center in my area it would be hard for parents to get their child to a from other centers. My hours of operation are also very vital in my area.

(53574) America's small businesses are the back bone of our economy but only giant companies/corporations get help/breaks with taxes, health care and child care. It's obvious that this should be changed.

(54667) Right now I can offer lower rates to families, and higher wages to employees but if funding is cut both will end.

(53402) Child care counts has allowed us to increase wages of our staff to try and compete with the bigger business such as Amazon, Uline, Walmart and Target. Without it, I will have to raise tuition by at least \$20 per week. Most of my parents will not be able to afford it and it is possible that eventually we will need to close because of lack of teachers or lack of children.

(53570) Pay in my field is already low for the debt my employees have. They simply cannot afford to have children on this pay. By the time they pay for child care they are making less than \$5.00 a hour. Hence when my employees get pregnant they quit work and I lose precious licensed qualified staff. It's hard to find staff, so losing them hurts a lot and decreases the amount of patients my practice can see in a day. This effects the income of everyone else.

(54757) Parents struggle paying the payments I need to meet my own needs. Because of this children are being watched by inconsistent people or parents are not working what they need to.

(53061) If Child Care Counts ends, our childcare center plans to close. I will lose my staff and others will be greatly affected.

(53202) The lack of state support for child care is both anti-family and anti-business.

(54956) Since Covid this has been a significant barrier to find employees

(54935) We have not been fully enrolled because we are under staffed. The additional funding helps us keep our current staff, this has been essential to keeping the current services we have. Without this funding, we would have fewer slots, exasperating the childcare problem.

(54937) It is so important that we work together to find solutions to address the childcare problems in Wisconsin. Without safe and affordable childcare our communities can't grow and prosper. Child care availability is one of the questions new industries looking at moving into our area always ask. We have to find a way to address this problem.

(54911) Part of the problem is lack of qualified providers and/or space within certified qualified centers. If you have a need for or change in daycare, there's nowhere to take your child.

(53216) We need help with Everything that's has to do with children. Why is it we are last in line for anything that has to do with our children???

(53210) This will be a big impact for families that can barely afford co-pays but need the hours for care, for some paying employees, or just keeping there doors up and running due to financial hardships at after Covid

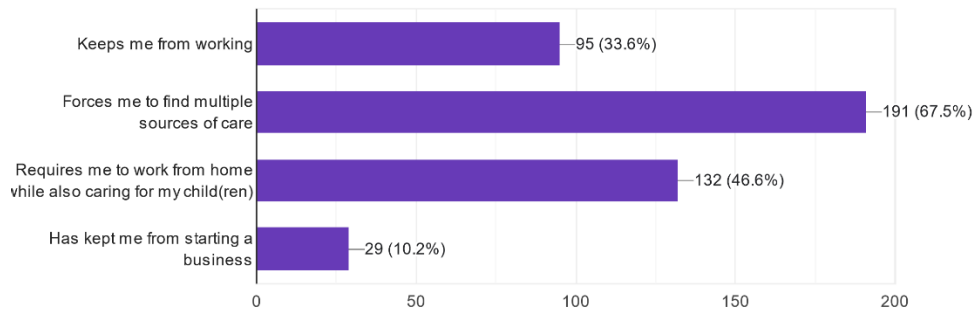
(54481) We have a hard time filling the positions available because qualified potential employees can't find child care. Child care in our area is hard to find due to so many leaving the field. They need to be able to make a sustainable living wage. CCC at least helps providers to be compensated with employee bonuses so they can keep doors open. As 5 year old's move on to school, openings for infants and toddlers become available. Hopefully we will be able hire more employees as these spots become open, if the centers remain fully funded to keep their doors open.

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS RESPONSES:**

The lack of child care affordability, availability, and quality impacts the parents/guardians in the following personal and economical ways. The average parent drives over 20 minutes to drop off and pick up their child out of their way, with some even having over 2 hours extra added to their day.

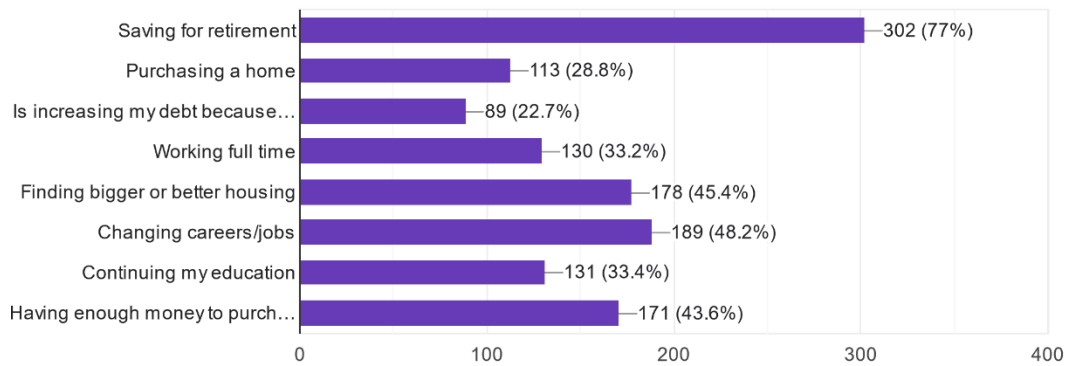
Currently, the lack and/or expense of child care (check all that apply)

283 responses



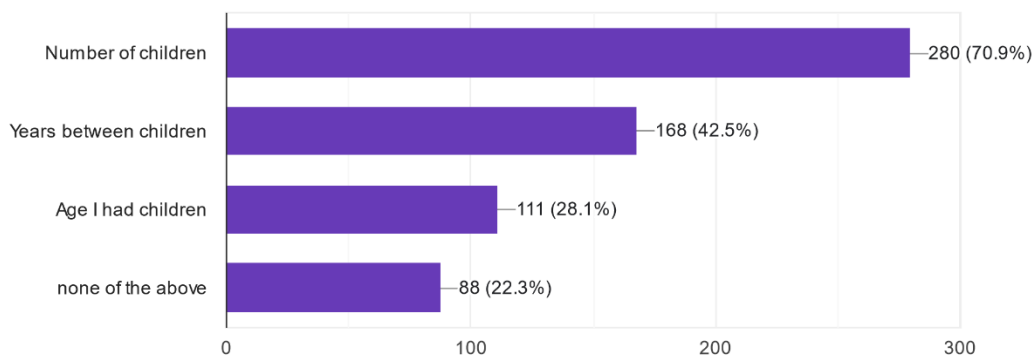
Parents paying for child care: The high cost of child care is a barrier to (check all that apply)

392 responses



How does Child Care access impact your family planning (check all that apply)

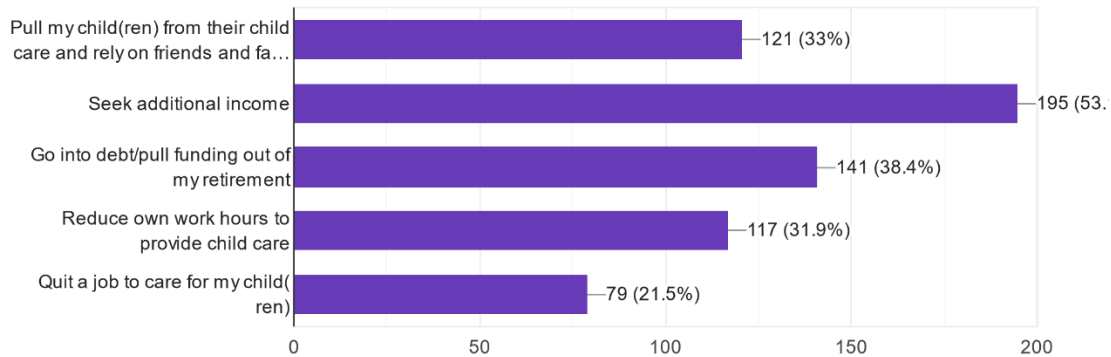
395 responses



**If the cost of child care increases the following will happen:**

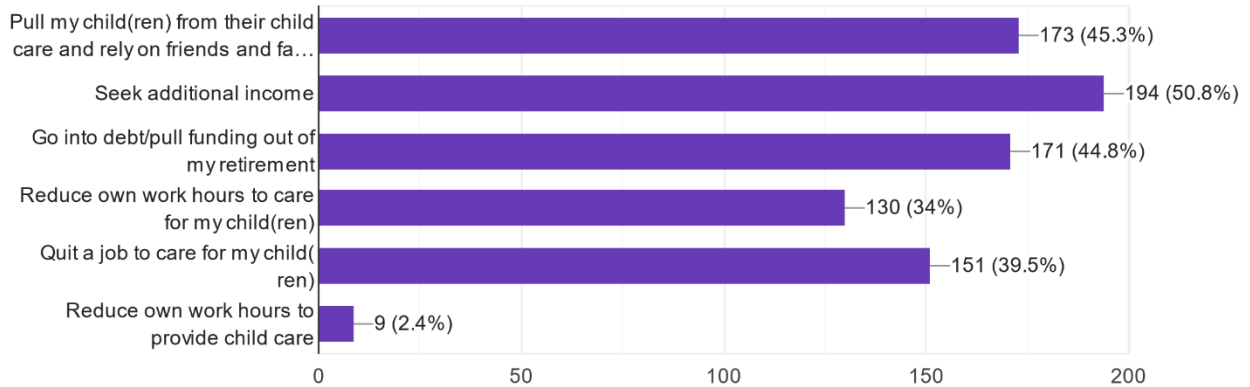
### If rates increase 10-20% per child, I will

367 responses



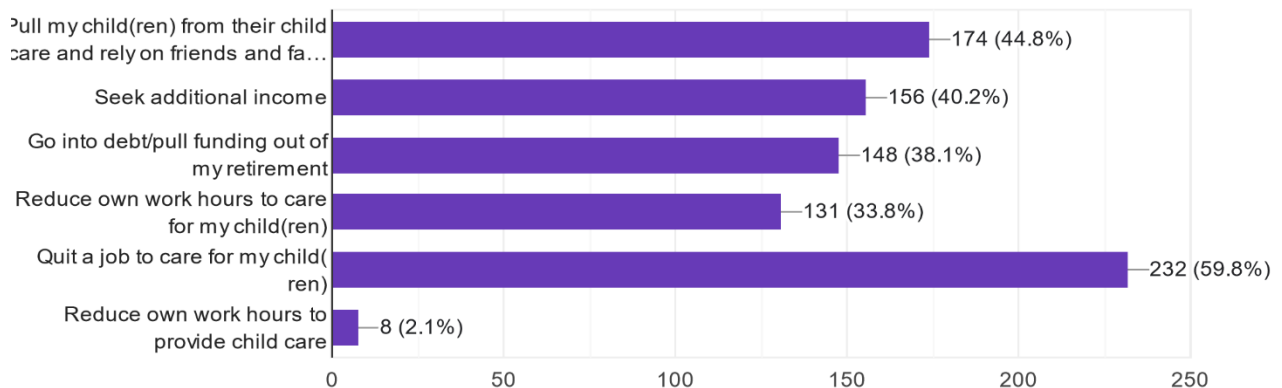
### If rates increase 20-30% per child, I will

382 responses



### If rates increase 30%+ per child, I will

388 responses



**Parents Comments:**

(53520) I think that daycare should be like public schools and funded by the government

(53566) Having multiple children in daycare costs a small fortune. The average person can't make ends meet with these costs. Rising costs will shut down daycares and cause more staffing crises at other facilities.

(53566) I have had the same daycare form over 10 years 3 different children and these lady's are like family. They do everything that I would do for my children if I was able to stay home with them and when they have to work as 2-3 workers because of budget cuts it not only hurts them but the future of all the kids in the family

(53566) Please help working middle class families. We need affordable child care to be able to better ourselves at home and in the community.

(53566) Cost is getting out of hand. With inflation in everything else, parents rely on income to help provide for their families. As a single parent, I should not have to work 3 jobs in order to afford life. That is insane and to be expected do to such means my child will lack the necessities of life and not have a mother around to care for her. Imagine the damage you would be doing to children of single parent homes and low income homes! There is no need for a parent to go broke trying to manage life.

(53566) I'm very worried about the lack of teachers and what will happen if my daughter gets kicked out of child care because of more teachers leaving. We were very lucky to get the spot in the daycare because I called when I was just 2 months pregnant. If I am unable to get a spot for child care, I do not have family that I can rely on.

(53719) I am fortunate to be able to have children and still work. We drive a ridiculous distance to find affordable quality care. I could not afford two children in daycare if I needed care in Madison at a licensed facility.

(53959) The early years of a child's life are the most critical. We need to invest in a strong support network for children and their parents. Only by providing equitable access to childcare can we stop generational cycles of trauma, abuse, illiteracy, and poverty. To continue to pinch Pennies on early childhood is to rob from the future of Wisconsin by participating in creating a weakened economy and a generation of children who can not compete with other states and even countries who made the choice to invest in their children.

(54304) There aren't enough resources for me to quit my job for childcare and still survive and provide enough for my family if costs go up. It's already difficult finding good childcare. I can't try and find somewhere else with where I work.

(54304) If the cost of childcare continues to rise either my wife or I would have to leave our job to care for son.

(54481) Please do not cut money for the childcare counts program

(54911) There should be a high focus on fixing the childcare issue. As an HR professional, I hear the negative impacts that the child care issue is causing as people can't work, can't afford care or can't find care

(54913) My husband and I both have well-paying jobs in the engineering and accounting fields, so we can afford a 30% rate increase in child care if necessary. Despite that, we worry that losing CCC funds will negatively affect our daycare center and ultimately our two children. Our center has already experienced staffing issues over the past year, resulting in teacher turnover, shuffling children between rooms, and shortened hours. The shortened hours have made it more difficult for us to work our regular hours, only made possible because we work from home and live near the daycare center so travel time is minimal.

(54914) Child care is so incredibly important. It is a huge barrier in why people cannot work it creates downstream issues as it relates to people requiring public assistance. Not to mention, the impact it has



on children. Parents, like myself, who need to find multiple caregivers, have children bouncing from one place to the next with little consistency. Please understand how important this is.

(54914) Quality early childhood education delivers benefits to the children and to their parents. These benefits translate to a more robust local economy that can actually save taxpayers money. Early childhood education is not just a necessity— it's a sound investment in our future.

(54913) The reductions in child care funding would impact the services our daycare provides. In the last year our daycare has had issues with staffing, resulting in a reduction in hours open and shuffling of kids between classrooms.

(54914) Child care is already expensive and keeps increasing. Without funding my ability to work full time will be gone which decreases our family income and puts my family in a huge financial bind. We can't afford one income but we also can't afford additional child care expenses.

(53714) Being a working parent is so tough. I feel like I have to choose between my career and being a mother. As a working parent in Wisconsin, I feel there is little to no support to help with childcare, the lack of childcare, access to high quality care and rising prices. I want to see childcare teachers paid better wages, I want more access to childcare options and financial support to help cover the cost of care. These first few years are the most important time in our child's life. It is important for parents to be supported and for access to high quality childcare be available

(53566) The price of child care is already difficult to justify with the income I have.

(53566) WE NEED CHILDCARE. Please consider all aspects when looking at this topic.

(54106) Finding a good center, not "my aunts friend" is difficult and expensive. You need to get on the wait list as soon as you are expecting to get in by the time maternity leave is over. That is how few are available. A good center teaches way more at a young age compared to an unlicensed person watching our child. The cost associated is worth the care but is a factor in having more kids for us. We have no family in the area so that is not an option either.

(53566) I already spend over a half of a months income on childcare for one child going full time and another going 2 or less hours a day. If the cost of daycare increases I will no longer be able to afford it as I am living pay check to pay check as is and struggling to make ends meet. The cost of day care should not be equivalent to the amount of money that we are bringing home each month.

(53520) Child care and teachers should be getting wages close to if not the same as medical Professionals. They help raise and mold today's youth. Without child care, the amount of people who would quit their jobs would be quite impactful for our society. Working in the medical field I know several people struggled to find child care, that they can barely afford. Several had notice in to leave their position in case they couldn't find child care in time.

(54911) With this money supporting my childcare center i know they will be able to continue to provide quality care for my child, they are setting the building blocks for my child's future that i cannot alone give them. Please support the children of our FUTURE, they are the ones that will suffer the consequences of not being taught these valuable life skills they are currently learning in their high quality center

(54449) Child care is too expensive.

(54449) There is a NEED for child care providers but they don't get paid enough. Who would want to work 8+ hrs doing a very difficult and exhausting job in hopes to get \$11/hr. This is an important role and is very much needed!

(54449) We absolutely need more funding, even with getting state assistance for childcare we cannot afford our family, food and bills all together. We are a two income household and there's no reason we should be struggling to support our family yet I just had to pick up a part time job on top of my full time and now will barely see my kids

(54913) I understand that bringing children into this world is a choice of our own, and no one else is truly responsible for maintaining their financial well-being but we do ask that we try to make it a little bit easier

(54106) Please continue funding

(54484) We have no access. Waiting lists for over a year. Cost is astronomical, but caregivers are not paid living wages. But quality care is so important! This is a crisis!

(54412) I may have more income than the average household with children but I strongly support funding early childcare as this is the hardest financial times in most people's lives.

(54449) The cost of living (ie food, clothes, basic life amenities) and child care have increased so much that it's not worth having children anymore. It should be enjoyable and fulfilling having children to cherish memories with. Now all we do is constantly worry about how to pay for the basics.

(54449) Good child care is extremely difficult to find. No one wants to work anywhere and the ones that can work have to pay thru the nose for childcare.

(54449) Child care is essential- not only to keep parents working and growing our economy- but it is overall great for the children to get social interaction and the learning environment at their age. Finding good, reliable, trustworthy, affordable childcare is hard to come by and very stressful for new parents trying to be excited for their child, but having the fear of not having care

(54449) I have 6 children ranging from 4 months to 18 years. My first 5 children all utilized a great child care center for the past 18 years. With my new baby, I have been on waitlists for over a year, and I am still not close to getting a spot. I worry about the impact this will have on his development as he is having to be shuffled around to different caregivers. I. Order for me to work to support our family. It makes my question whether I should be a stay at home mother and leave my leadership role in healthcare (nursing) that I have worked my way up to over the past 16 years. I have seen the quality of child care continue to decline over the past several years, while the cost continues to rise to unsustainable rates.

(54449) I agree that child care workers need increased wages, they are taking care of our children and are a very important part of their lives. We want our children safe. I can't afford to work if I pay a child care worker the same amount I make. I am a nurse, I take care of people also and people rely on me. There is a shortage of nurses and caregivers. There needs to be some help somewhere

(54449) High quality childcare is extremely important to foster the growth and development of our children while allowing parents to continue contributing to the workforce. Childcare costs have already risen to the point that many families must have one parent leave the workforce to provide care for their children. Parents must also compete for childcare openings as there are not enough available. This should not be the case. Please support our Childcare centers so we can have accessible, affordable high quality care and Education for our children.

(54484) There are countries who do childcare far better than we do, and reap the benefits. Learn from them.

(54449) Quality childcare is expensive and difficult to secure. We are expecting a baby in July with care needed for Oct. We've been on waitlists since December and despite 11 month notice we've been told care is unlikely to be available in October when I need to go back to work.

(54449) Quality Child care is crucial. These teachers have such a important role as the brain is developing at such a rapid pace and very vulnerable. As a parent, I want teachers to care for my children like their own. Their job is not an easy task and they deserve to be appropriately compensated for their dedication and time. However, child care is so expensive and has limited my family on how often we can send out children to daycare. While I am happy to pay for a care and education for my children, I expect excellent care be provided by qualified teachers. I would love to send my children more often to the daycare center as I have seen significant growth and

knowledge gains in my children but the cost prohibits me from sending them more. I want to give my children the best life I can, starting with early education

(54449) We are a two-income household, and together we make an almost 6-figure income. We both work full time, opposite shifts, so my husband can be home with our youngest the days we can't afford daycare. We have 3 other children as well. Do you know what it's like as a parent to have to tell your kids we can't go on special trips or groceries have to be limited because we don't have the money to AFFORD those things? Our youngest goes to daycare only 3 days a week, and that is to get social interaction with his peers, to help his speech delay, and that alone costs me one of my bi-weekly paychecks to pay for the entire month. That doesn't leave much for all the other expenses I have to pay for. We can't get government assistance, either. Think about our future. These kids ARE our future and you're setting them up for failure before they even have a chance to try and thrive. Shame on you. Your mother is rolling over in her grave, embarrassed of your actions. It's time you man up and look at the big picture and not the petty little things (criminalizing people for Marijuana.) Get with the times, Wisconsin.

(54449) Please prioritize working families and early childhood education!!!

(54449) There is a problem. Child care is expensive, teachers need to be paid living wage. Daycares can't find enough staff to keep ratios. We need a solution

(53566) Childcare is a vital part of community infrastructure. There are many studies that demonstrate the importance and impact of quality early education ( birth - 5) can have on a person's development. The childcare counts program has allowed my day care to pay the teachers more while keeping my payments to a minimum. If the money goes away the teachers will again get paid less AND in order to allow their wages the per day rate for my kids will go to a level higher than \$65/ day. I have two kids and that increase will bring the cost of care up to ~13% of the MHI income for the area. What is more, when you take home ownership into the mix between childcare and mortgage payments families are not left with all that much money to pay for basic needs like food, water, gas, power, or transportation much less trying to establish an education fund for the kids or a retirement for the parents. Additionally, childcares cannot keep up with local wages because of the undue cost to parents and childcares lose teachers all the time to get a higher hourly wage at a place that does not require any education. If we were to raise wages to match the market rate of other jobs the cost per week per kid would rise to more than \$80/ day making the cost of day care completely untenable. The problems we see with day care availability are not simply a lack of day care rooms but it is more a lack of teachers because people know working in early education does not pay enough to justify working at the child care. No teachers means no child care which means a parent will struggle to find work. For small communities the solution is not and cannot be that employers create the childcare for their employees, there is simply too much cost involved in creating and managing a day care and small businesses do not have the excess overhead to create a quality environment for proper early education.

(53566) The ability to be a full-time working parent is not one that should be unattainable by all who desire that lifestyle. I am not simply a parent, I am a trained, educated human being and I should not have to give up my identity because child-care is not affordable or available. Affordable child care is a basic necessity and the fact that this is such a problem in our state is unbelievable. It is shameful that the people who are in charge of our children in their most developmental stages are paid such a deplorable wage. Of course facilities can't find anyone to work. Being a child-care worker requires someone to choose between making a livable wage or doing what they love. The fact that these trained professionals, who sacrifice so much of themselves make less money than a McDonalds worker is absolutely disgusting. We should not have to constantly tell our children that their teachers are leaving because they chose to go work somewhere that they might be able to make a decent wage. I am a K-12 public school teacher and my husband is a police officer. We had to re-finance our home to afford child care in order to continue working in our chosen fields which we have both spent years training and educating ourselves to achieve. I cannot imagine what single-income households or people with lesser paying jobs do to afford to have a safe place for their children during the working day. Our children are our most important entity and the fact that we are not making the investment in their education and future makes it easier to understand why the youth in our country are under-performing

in every aspect. The children, child-care workers and parents in this state deserve better. Wisconsin is better than this.

(54449) I have multiple friends cobbling together care because of long waiting lists. The lack of spots for infant daycare is one of the reasons we decided not to have more children. Waiting lists I've been told are due to lack of staff.

(54449) Childcare fiance has helped me in so many ways. With the assistance I get I can put food on my table for my kids and buy them diapers.

(54449) Childcare is critical, please prioritize funding as such.

(54449) Childcare is so crucial to many parents. Especially those who are single parents who have no backup other than relying solely on child care, so they can work to earn an income to take care of the family.

(54449) It forces people to not have more children - the expenses , sadly

(53208) It feels like a crime to do this to families

(53227) The expense for childcare is outrageous. These teachers and childcare providers are hardworking and make a huge impact on our child's care and development.

(53574) You need to put more money in helping out family's with kids. And schools with after school programs to help out family's. The kids are the future. And the elected official are doing a bad job in raising the future. There are more censured about adoration, and the gay act. to help out.

(53213) The cost of childcare is borderline prohibitively expensive as is. Should costs increase further, not only would individual families, caregivers, and businesses suffer, but the whole of Wisconsin's workforce and economy would suffer, too. If parents are unable to pay for quality, trusted childcare, they could eventually have no other choice but to leave their careers to care for their children. We cannot let this happen to our families or our state.

(53213) Crucial to workforce development.

(54441) We need additional resources. If you want more laborers in the work force, help us put our children in affordable daycare

(54136) The quality that the state requires and envisions for child care and school age care is not matched by the dollar amount provided through the support of the government to centers. Child care centers CANNOT rely on their profits to run their programs, and we as parents CANNOT pay more in order to support that.

(53534) If this funding drops my rates will be raised significantly. I already can't afford much due to inflation. We also haven't been able to afford a house. This makes it worse.

(53227) Having affordable child care means that I am in the city, working and spending money. There is a clear and direct relationship to the access to affordable childcare and the prosperity of our state.

(53213) Quality child care is very difficult to find and not affordable for people working middle class jobs. For example, both my husband and I are teachers and we cannot afford childcare for our two children unless we both do other jobs (like waiting tables). We also do not make enough for only one of us to work. We are stuck.

(54956) I am one of the lucky ones who also works for the YMCA full-time so I get a nice discount on care. But if I did not, I would not be able to afford the care. Also, they are struggling for teachers, so having care available in all schools is not a choice.

(54412) I have had to almost quit my job or go on FMLA at least 3 times over the last four years because of daycare closures and not having any other child care options. We have also had to deal with daycare workers that were abusive and unethical. This has caused an extraordinary amount of

stress on my family. Wisconsin communities should have access to quality, safe, and well funded daycare centers that meet the needs of their communities. Increasing the daycare worker wage will help ensure that qualified and compassionate workers are working and caring for our babies and keep out the abusive dirt bags. When I drop my kids off at daycare, I shouldn't have to worry about them getting neglected or abused. These worries and situations make it hard to work and excel personally and professionally.

(53212) The current child care model is broken and harms families and children. The state needs to set a positive example and invest in children. Affordable childcare is a requirement for a healthy economy with high workforce participation.

(54911) Support the people who are caring for our future generations

(54449) The workforce is shrinking due to lack of child care. Currently, 2 year await list in Marshfield, WI for children under age of 2.

(53132) Cost increases for child care in the last several years has increased the inequities associated with socioeconomic status and unfavorably impacted people of color.

(54449) WE NEED MORE.

(53574) I should not have to pay more money for my toddler to be in a safe learning environment than a college tuition. 90% of human brain development happens in the first 5 years and yet there is minimal financial help to give ALL children a proper education. Funding childcare federally will bridge the gap between racial, geographical, and financial differences in the education of children in society. Most people would want their children to be cared for by educated, caring, and reliable people and yet childcare workers make less than dog walkers and fast food chain cashiers. Why would a childcare teacher stay at their position, when they need to complete yearly hours of continuing education, have no benefits, be a janitor, a councilor, a nurse, a chef, and be trusted with the world's most precious resource in a high stress environment? Love. But love can't pay the bills. Invest in childcare!

(54656) We need more providers. Continue child care payments so my provider doesn't quit working. It's SO hard to find regulated quality care these days..

(54449) It is literally impossible for me, with a bachelor degree, to be as financially stable as my parents were my age with 2 children and no degrees. Inflation and childcare (cost and lack thereof) are crushing the middle class. There is no "American dream" anymore.

(53565) If childcare turns unaffordable then I won't be able to provide for my children in other ways that are necessary. Proper clothing, gear, nutrition. This would create a detrimental stress on my marriage and overall wellness of all of our children.

(53574) I am lucky. Most are not. If this problem isn't solved it will solve itself in a way that will cripple the economy.

(54016) If rates increase any more than they are, how will these centers even be able to keep their doors open? The qualifications for daycare assistance are ridiculously strict. I will have to consider quitting my daycare job and that's says a lot. The resource of child care is not cared about enough. Women almost have to stay at home and the overall family has to go into debt. Which is heart wrenching.

(54449) It's been difficult to find licensed daycares with openings. My 15 month old has been on the waitlist for 15 months. We've had some baby sitters in the summer and then tried an unlicensed home daycare that had too many babies and toddlers roughly 7:1 ratio and there were a lot of concerns so we pulled out baby from the o home daycare. My husband quit his job to be a stay at home dad and I work from home when possible.

There needs to be more funding for quality daycares and staff needs to be paid at least \$15/hour. They

are doing very skilled and difficult work. The first five years of a child's life are so important and having consistent care providers is needed. A higher wage will attract more quality staff.

(53566) Support our child care providers! Parents need more options for care, not less.

(54017) please help to support childcare centers

(53508) I don't know what I would do if I didn't have our sitter. These care givers have one of the hardest jobs I feel and deserve to be heard and supported.

(54935) If childcare costs increase I will have to quit my job to care for my children.

(53559) I know so many fellow parents who are struggling to find daycare. Please help!

(53916) Having a child care center that loves your child and takes care of them like their parents is very important. A piece of mind knowing they are taken care while we work!

(53566) We need to increase rates so we have teachers that want to stay in childcare

(54449) Have you ever worked in child care? It's under paid and under appreciated but yet a highly needed resources for families to work. However costs are high to maintain daycare and affects working families. Therefore many people cannot work due to cost of care and then there are less employees at other need occupations. This results in less employees in our community for running businesses etc. The opposite also happens where families goes into debt due to childcare costs and affects them from providing for their families elsewhere. Please think how this would affect you if you too were working a low income job and raising a family.

(53566) It's painful to see how pathetic child care offerings are in this state. That's not to say the child care itself is pathetic, but the number of available offerings is pathetic. The child care providers don't make enough money, so they often leave, which impacts the other teachers & children, and the quality of care provided. Child care is critical if we want the economy to succeed, because if we can't drop our children off at child care then we can't work. A vicious downward cycle that's solvable, if the government was willing to step in and do anything. But going the opposite direction, and REMOVING funds; it's a sad time for the state of Wisconsin.

(53963) Cost is outrageous and you have to find child care as soon as you you get pregnant for availability. How are families supposed to live? You increase the cost you will pay more in state funds to families who can't work because of this.

(53932) I have 2 kids in a licensed daycare 5 days a week. No assistance because my husband and I make too much money, but also can barely keep our head above water because the rates keep going up. I also understand that quality daycare staff need higher pay and it's important to me to have high quality care for my children. My husband did stay home with the kids for 4 months when we switched kids to our current daycare, and it is not financially ideal for just one parent to be working, our bills are too much money to do that.

(53925) Child care in Wisconsin is an absolute joke. I spend an hour and 20 minutes commmting just to daycare on days that I WORK FROM HOME. I spend another 3 HOURS commuting on the two days I have to commute to daycare and then to work. It's complete bullshit. More needs to be done, this is pathetic and exhausting for parents. More kids are absolutely out of the question.

(54913) Our society needs childcare. People need to work to feel purpose. The more people lose their jobs, the more increase of mental health and substance use disorders we will see. Which means you either put money toward Prevention like employment supports and child care, or even more money toward treatment and recovery. Please be smart and know we are saving money by investing in child care first.

(53956) Child care workers are the most patient people I've ever met. They are a blessing to our children and we enjoy partnering with them. It is vital that this relationship continues

(53574) Quality care providers are quitting because they don't have adequate support to find their own family's needs. As a parent, we need the comfort of knowing our child is safe and taken care of and still be able to work to balance our lifestyle needs. Further federal funding is needed to accommodate working family's and providers.

(54911) Child care is increasingly inaccessible with higher and higher rates while also reducing hours. It is not sustainable and has caused my work hours to become extremely limited. Also, increasing the number of children not being able to access early childcare negatively impacts our future as a state. Children will need more support later into their development to account for the lack of early support and they will struggle to meet the potential that they could have. This will have a direct impact on our future working world as well as the budget of our state.

(53574) We pay more than our mortgage for one month (\$1,700) of childcare for our two children. It is impossible to find affordable, quality childcare in rural Wisconsin. If rates increase by 10-20% I will no longer be a contributing member of society. My mental health will also suffer because I am NOT a stay-at-home mom. I work as a registered nurse in Wisconsin and skilled nurses are already in short supply in our community. If the childcare counts bill isn't approved this year, I can promise you will see a dramatic decrease in working parents in rural communities. This working RN included.

(53508) Availability of childcare today is a huge concern to me, and the prospect of losing more centers due to lack of funding is honestly scary. I have been extremely fortunate to obtain full time daycare spots for both of my children. I have many friends who have had to wait months or even years for a full time spot. This greatly impacts their ability to work as desired and adds a lot of stress, both day-to-day from the challenge of working while caring for children and financially due to cutting back hours. I never want to be in that position. We do not have family nearby which means that a loss of childcare would require me to quit my job until both of my children are school aged. This would not be good for me, my career, or my employer. In my current position as a civil engineer, I act as a technical resource, mentor, and project manager. All of that would come to an abrupt halt without childcare and instead our family would be forced to make some difficult financial decisions.

(53014) Our daycare center is great. They work so hard & take great care of my child. Care for my child when us parents are working is essential. We have nobody else to help us watch our child. We must rely on a child care center and we want it to continue to be this center due to the convenience for us parents, the relationships they have grown, the community, and the care they receive. One of us parents would have to quit our job, that we have worked so hard for, to take care of our children. We both had schooling for our job and that is not cheap to pay back. A lot of time out into that but of course our child is before everything else. But all prices in this world are going up except our pay, so it does not make sense how we are expected to get by. We have 1 little boy and soon another to come. We want more children but know we cannot because how expensive everything is already. It is sad. We barely get by as it is, we cannot keep having prices go up on everything. What are we expected to do? We work very hard and a lot. We also need time some time with our family at the end of the day to watch our little ones grow. Be involved in their lives, not working 24/7 which seems like we are already close to having to do as it is. Please help these families.

(53593) They have a very important job and should be compensated better

(53014) My husband and I are both college educated and hold full-time professional jobs making "decent" salaries and we struggle to afford child care. The cost of child care is a substantial burden that has made it very difficult to save money. We purchased and remain in a very modest home even though we'd like to move closer to our places of employment, we are limping 15+ yr vehicles along rather than upgrading to avoid a monthly car payment, we have avoided making upgrades and repairs to our home or have temporary repairs until the kids are in school and our monthly day care payments reduce, we have put off saving for our children's college funds, and we have decided not to have a third child due only to the financial burden- we simply cannot afford to have three kids in daycare. Child care is nearly 1/4 of our annual income. My husband is already supplementing his salary with a part time weekend job. I simply do not know how else we can scrimp and save to afford additional child care costs if this program no longer remains in place. Additionally, we depend on and put our trust in our day

care providers. They deserve a fair and livable wage. It is absolutely necessary to continue this funding in order to retain the wonderful, hard working people we entrust with our children with everyday.

(54768) Unemployment and poverty will skyrocket. The stress put on working parents will rise and you will be dealing with more mental illness with parents. Families should not have to stop having kids because they cannot afford daycare or have access to it.

(53714) Quality and affordable childcare is vital not only to the state of Wisconsin, but to our Nation. I hope that we invest in the future of Wisconsin through our earliest citizens. I urge you to not cut Child Care Counts funding out of the state budget. Support Wisconsin children, families, and child care workers!

(53014) I am a teacher and it's extremely important to me to have my children in a quality environment. If funding is lost so will quality, educated care givers. I spend 9+ hours away from my children. If we want well rounded children able to learn problem solving skills, how to communicate, how to read, write and be kind to others we need to continue quality care. These children are our future! Let's invest some time and money into them. The kids deserve it. Please don't cut funding as I want to know my children are safe and well cared for. If a parent has to stay home to care for children we are losing so many working adults as well and we are already short on people in the workforce. Please consider continuing funding for these critical programs and services!

(53593) The more that needs to be spent on childcare decreases funds used to be spent on other basic needs (food, clothes, shelter) and wouldn't have additional funds to try to help stimulate the economy.

(53944) The cost of child care centers is crushing us financially. It accounts for roughly 20% of our take home and costs more than our mortgage. It is the number 1 reason we decided to stop at 2 kids instead of the 4 we were planning to have. There is absolutely no way to advance in our careers. When we are constantly having to stay home to watch our kids because a center has closed due to staffing or just due to the hours they operate. Quality daycare is a necessity and should be more available.

(54979) Financial help for child care centers

(53572) Childcare is expensive enough. As a prior worker in this field, I know how hard these individuals work and for little pay and appreciation. They deserve better. Fund Childcare our children's futures depend on you!

(53572) Having children have access to safe, reliable care is a must. Affording this care is a burden on our family and our largest expense each month- greater than our mortgage, property taxes, insurance and groceries combined. We have had to split up our kids to get the most affordable options of care for our family. When will there be relief of this?

(54016) It is impossible for moms to work right now with the costs and inaccessibility of daycare. Many places have waitlists a year out. With food, rent and gas prices where there are right now it is crippling us financially.

(53574) Affordable Child care is not just important for my family, I see how my employer is struggling to find help, it would be a great opportunity for a mom to work with little help of daycare, but our village doesn't have enough childcare / after school opportunities, so we are short staffed like many others. I see small businesses either closing or shortening hours due to the short staffing when childcare will go up. Many in our town won't be able to afford childcare anymore.

(53566) Given the budgetary surplus in WI in 2023, I think more government dollars should be put in to subsidize childcare especially childcare worker pay. With increased cost of living, I think many people are struggling to get by. With the very low pay for childcare workers, I do not know how they are managing to make ends meet. They deserve and need more pay.

(54935) I am writing to ask my representatives to include at least 300 million in the state budget to continue the Child Care Counts program that keeps child care programs open. I am a parent and having affordable, accessible, high quality child care helps ensure I am able to work. Without the Child



Care Counts funding many child care programs in my community will need to increase their tuition 20-30%, reduce hours or children in their care, or possibly close completely. This will be detrimental to our community.

(54937) Three kids in daycare - my entire paycheck goes towards daycare, we are struggling to pay for everyday needs, diapers, food, heat, electricity, vehicle payments and are going into dept further in every month just trying to keep up.

(54937) Child care for my children is the up most important factor to my children's ability to learn and it sets them up for their future. Without structured childcare my children do not have a bright future as I would be having to rely on family or myself to teach them and I am not a trained childhood teacher or they would be stuck in front of a TV while I tried to work from home which is not fair to them or my employer. Child care centers are the foundation of our nation's future! Fund them for WHATEVER they need!

(54935) N/A

(54935) Affordable child care is essential for professional employees to maintain their employment. I am a full time working mother (social worker in child welfare) and if my costs raise 30% I will have to drastically alter my employment hours to less than fulltime to offset this cost.

(54935) With prices skyrocketing everywhere else, these type of price increases will cripple families. No good will come of this. All childcare centers in Wisconsin deserve funding.

(54768) The high cost of daycare makes it difficult for families to have more than 2 kids. There is a larger percentage of parents that both mom and dad work full time that do not qualify for any daycare assistance or any assistance for that matter. We are constantly paying Peter to rob Paul. It gets even harder when paying for full time daycare and fees in the public school for school age children. I could go in and on. But that are the socioeconomic group of voters that legislators, senators, congressmen and even the governor need to focus on.

(53217) The cost of putting two children into daycare two days per week costs almost as much as my mortgage. I currently pay \$1520/mo for two children to attend daycare two days per week. I don't know how people are able to pay for full time child care. In order to keep costs down, my mom has to watch the kids on her days off of work.

(54913) I am a member at the Apple Creek YMCA in Wisconsin, where my child attends preschool/day care. Without the affordable rates that this program has offered my family, I couldn't afford to have my child attend school. The teachers/staff/members are extremely friendly, caring, and make you feel as though you're part of a community. Raising rates would force me to pull my child from the programs and find alternate care with family. I hope we can continue to attend as this consistent schedule is very important for my child's growth and behavior.

(54913) Please consider putting Wisconsin families first. Childcare needs to be accessible and affordable to all.

(54935) Childcare is essential to our family as my husband and I both have full time jobs and children. We both have to work to support our lives and if there is no childcare this will take a huge toll on us financially. If childcare goes up I have no idea what we will do. One of us would have to get a 3rd shift job to watch the kids during the day and that just seems absurd to have to do.

(54467) I am on the board of directors and the treasurer for a nonprofit child care center in central Wisconsin and also have children in daycare (2 currently, with 1 not being able to enroll because of the high demand/long wait lists and short staffing). The child care center raised the wages for staff to a starting wage of \$11/hr starting with no experience because of the CCC funding. Without that funding, our center cannot sustain this pay increase for teachers and will have to shut its doors within months. It is critical to our center and others around the state to continue this funding. Even with the funding and ability to increase wages, centers in our area are struggling to find workers due to the low wages, demanding work, licensing and education requirements. Our center has started closing classrooms on

Fridays due to lack of staffing. The situation is dire. The cost of daycare is already prohibitive to many parents, without the funding the tuition increase required to keep centers open will be 30% - that's about \$60 per week per child in addition to current rates which are already \$230 a week or more. At nearly \$300/week it would be unobtainable for most families in our area to afford, especially with multiple children. Our children are the future of this great country and this is the most critical stage of a child's development and yet teachers can't get paid a living wage, there's high turnover, burnout, parents are paying more than a mortgage monthly on childcare, it's madness. Even if you don't care about the children, think about the money lost from able bodied adults being unable to work due to lack of childcare. Parents deserve better, early childhood teachers deserve better, and most importantly, our children, the future of this state and country, deserve better than a child care system on the brink of collapse. Please continue to fund child care, our society depends on it.

(53235) Currently, the cost of childcare for two children both after school and daycare, is equivalent to my take home pay after taxes and healthcare. If the rates were to increase further I would need to quit my job and my family would have to completely change our lifestyles.

(54768) There has to be quality child care options for parents to keep our generation and the ones that follow working. I'm lucky that I can afford it, but I know others cannot. My struggle will be if child care center(s) close. I live in a rural area where there are already limited options.

(53574) We have 1 good child care option in our rural community. If they close, we don't have any family that live close to help us with the kids. I would have to quit my job and close the business I just started. Even more, our child care center struggles to keep qualified workers because they can make better money cleaning houses or working at a school than sharing my child's most formative 0 to 5 years.

(54193) It is very critical for us to find a day care for our kid because both of us need to go back our full-time work. The maternity leave in the US is too short compared with other countries. We wish we can keep the kid at home longer while we cannot. As a result, finding a good child care is very important for our family.

(54911) If "children are our future" then put your money where your mouth is and support child care employees and working parents.

(54913) As an educator myself, I understand the powerful and meaningful impact daycare has made on my child. He has had the opportunity to learn and grow among other children his age and the ability to socialize with other children makes a huge impact on the development of small children. We are thankful for the hard work and dedication the staff at our daycare commits to daily, while receiving unfair wages. In elementary schools, we have seen the impact of students not having access to proper child care and how it has affected their emotional and cognitive development. Education is the foundation of our future, it is crucial that we continue to make progress toward funding what is important, and that is childcare.

(54913) I am a single parent. Working full time. I make too much to qualify for assistance but with bills + child care, I am check to check. This shouldn't be this way

(54914) I choose to work at the YMCA because I believe in its cause and mission. Because of that, my income is not as high, which I am okay with. However, if my Child Care costs increase up to 30%, I will likely have to find a higher-paying job where I am less satisfied. The alternative would be for me to quit working altogether, which is not something I would prefer to do.

(54952) Childcare is already taking up half of my monthly income, and if costs increase we will not be able to save any money and we feel we will be stuck renting our entire life, or we will need someone to quit their job to watch our children which will significantly impact and impede our career.

(54956) We need to subsidize day care professionals and social workers instead of subsidizing people who don't work. Instead of paying \$10 per hour to people who are unemployed or who sit at home,

instead of this paying them we need pay the care professionals they will then have a competitive wage and more daycare options will be available for all.

(53014) It's already expensive as is if it goes up nobody will be able to afford it which they shouldn't have to worry about!

(54956) Child care is extremely expensive and teachers need to be compensated better

(54956) Childcare accounts for 20% of our disposable income - that's more than our housing and we are high earners (200K annual income)

(54956) Increased funding is absolutely vital for working parents to have quality, educational, trustworthy care for our precious fast growing babies. Daycare is a 2nd family that is invaluable for what they do to care for our little ones. They should be top priority for better pay and funding!

(54956) It's extremely hard to find child care due to the lack of daycare workers. The waitlists are insanely long and it puts a lot of stress on families. Cost is also outrageous.

(54915) we are able to be better parent because of child care

(54956) Child care is vital in Wisconsin. It's not a party issue that needs to be addressed both at the state level and in communities.

(54915) Everyone talks about family values, the importance of family and how decisions are made with considerations for family needs, and I just don't feel that. Until I had my own family I was blind to the difficulties families face from childcare and food cost, to the norms that society holds about who, what and where families are actually welcome. Our entire society is built around the idea that there exists woman and others with the resources needed to tend to young children and in a post pandemic world that is just not true. If you want to double the workforce give us accessible affordable childcare. Subsidy Birth to 5 the same way education is funded. Support educators, and families. Accessible. Affordable. In our neighborhoods, at a cost that doesn't break us.

(54956) It would be devastating to see even more childcare centers close down due to not having adequate funding. It would not only effect the children and parents, but it would affect businesses as they will lose workers who will now have to stay home with their children because they either cannot find childcare or they will be unable to afford it due increased rates. We are in the midst of a childcare crisis, and it is imperative to have the full funding for Child care Counts pass in the budget.

(54956) We need child support for daycare. The cost makes it almost impossible to keep working. Maybe better off on Government assistance.

(54956) We need help with childcare cost!!

(53002) Funding is desperately needed!

(54942) Child care is essential. Teachers need to be paid well for the care they provide our kids so we can work everyday.

(54942) We are facing a childcare crisis, no question. You can make a positive impact for so many by extending funding. We need parents in our workforce, and we need quality care for our children.

(54942) Daycares help keep the wheels turning. We most support them

(54956) To whom it may concern, the price for child care is unrealistic. In this society we are in a recession whilst meeting the bare minimum for our basic needs is a daily struggle. The average wage does not begin to meet a human being's basic needs, let alone adding an additional cost of child care. Families cannot afford to stay home with their children/child but yet cannot afford to work with the cost of child care. We have had to pick and choose on several occasions what and how we will get by till the next pay check. This society needs to continue to progress and find the balance in order for people to make a decent wage and to counter the cost of living. Please consider this as a human and not in the eyes of money and statistics. People will be forced to quit their jobs, pull fund from retirement (if they

ever have one), get a second plus job, etc. Thank you for your time a consideration on this matter and do think of what is best for the families whom may suffer if rates in acreage to such astronomical prices.

(54915) I am fortunate enough to have had privilege in my life to obtain higher education for myself and have worked at a professional job in higher education for over 10 years. The census says not all my fellow Wisconsinites have been so lucky. Even so, I have spent 1/3 of my annual income on childcare for the past 4 years (not counting 2020) on two children. I do not have family well enough to take care of my children. My friends all have their own children. I rely on daycare centers in order to work and I would not be able to work without childcare. In 2020, my daycare center closed. I would watch 2 children while "working" and then work from the time they went to bed, around 8PM, to midnight everyday to make up for lost productivity. This was unsustainable, pure hell to be perfectly honest, and I still haven't recovered from the stress. I can't image how other parents of two children could possibly work at all if they make \$15/hour or less. Everything they earn would be tied up in childcare expense.

(54966) Without consistent childcare I can't work consistently and will lose my job, and without that can't take care of my family. I can't afford not to work, and if prices increase so much as 20-30% I won't be able to afford full time childcare are even when I do work. It's lose lose for everyone, caregivers included. Our children are our most precious gifts and responsibility, care takers are already under paid and under appreciated- we can't lose more of them!

(54942) My husband and I do not have family in the area and do not have a big social network to help with child care. We rely on daycare centers so we can go to work every day. If the daycare center were to close and we could not find another one, I would have to quit my job.

(54730) The lack of childcare all around is scary. But rural areas, especially where I am in western Wisconsin are terrible. These childcare workers deserve better pay than someone at McDonald's they are caring for another human being. They are also getting just as burnt out as healthcare workers because of the lack of help, staffing crisis, and pay is not so good. We need these workers terrible and they deserve better.

(54956) Please don't charge me more for day care! Do I think that's the worked need more yes! But there are so many other ways that could change first!!!

(54944) While I know I'm not that bad off in terms of income, I have friends and co-workers who will likely quit their jobs if costs increased by 20-30%. That increase would constitute 1/3 to 1/2 of their weekly take-home pay.

(54169) Just about my entire income goes to my child's daycare tuition. I want my child in day care because it's important for their social/emotional development, and it's important for me to be able to work and contribute to my household. I also value a livable wage for daycare teachers and staff because they're critically important to our community and they have their own families to provide for as well.

(53566) It coast to much and childcare teachers don't get paid enough

(54944) I rely on childcare so I can work to provide for my family and pay my bills. Childcare also helps educate my children and gets them prepared to enter school. We have no outside help or family close to help us. Without childcare I would have to quit my job, but making less money impacts every other aspect of my family's lives. Childcare is a dire necessity. Children are the foundation of the future of this country and if we don't invest in them now who will? The idea of cutting funding for these children is beyond mind boggling and frustrating. Children need us, let's be there to support them and the wonderful centers that help families every single day!!

(54956) Child care is critical to allow me to work full time and contribute to my community as a citizen. I, too, and am educator and need to work to prepare our next generations for the future.

(54952) Full time child care costs \$1000 per month per child (I have two). Why is it that the child care deductible is still stuck at \$5000 TOTAL??? There are no licensed child care facilities that cost \$5000

for even one child full time for a year. Make the child tax care tax credit make sense- at least \$10,000 per child under the age of 5. It was done during the pandemic- extend it out indefinitely as a start to addressing the problem. The middle class takes the childcare burden.

(54956) We pay more per month on child care for two children than we do on our house payment including taxes and insurance. If child care continues to rise we will eventually have to make a decision if it makes financial sense for my wife to leave her job as an RN to care for our children. Child care costs has impacted our ability to consider a move into a larger house, and our only other large expense outside of our mortgage is my wife's student loans as we have both our vehicles paid off. Child care costs is about 20% of our net income and we are at a facility that is considered reasonable for our area. We have a reported \$7B state surplus and funding for child care absolutely needs to be considered in the state budget. We both are fortunate to have very good paying jobs to not live paycheck to paycheck, but the cost of child care has played a factor into how we spend/save our discretionary money.

(54956) Things need to change or your workforce will go down even more

(54956) We are so fortunate to have our kids in such a wonderful center like the YMCA. The amount of growth and development I've seen in my children is amazing. All thanks to the wonderful teachers at daycare. I would hate to have to stop working and pull my kids from care, so our family wouldn't go into debt paying for childcare. We don't have grandparents or family that love close. We rely on the flexibility of our daycare center.

(54937) Childcare is already very expensive. I have two small children and work in education. If the prices increase, it would be pointless for me to work as daycare is pretty much my salary. This funding is crucial in supporting working parents.

(54956) Child care is the necessity these days with both parents working. I hope government will take appropriate decision by budgeting sufficient funds for child care.

(53566) There are not enough qualified providers

(53566) Children need daycare providers. They need the stimulation and education of being with other children, especially pre school age kids. So many people have jobs that do not allow the children to be home, nor should that be an option. Since Covid happened more parents are working from home and taking care of their children. It's not fair for the children, the parents, nor the employer. Childcare needs to be affordable and supported by the state. Thank you.

(54913) Child care is a workforce issue. Child care workers are supporting the social and emotional growth of the next generation. These issues are critical for the current and future success of the state of WI.

(54449) We need help with supporting child care

(54952) Boomers were born to blue collar families with a stay-at-home mother. It's not the same world today. We cannot rely on women to step away from their careers to start or build a family. We need them in the workplace, too, with all the Boomers retiring. Want to help the economy? Give young families relief; or we won't have a generation to fix problems.

(54956) We rely and depend on childcare so my wife and I can continue to work. While childcare is not cheap, we are both fortunate to have good-paying jobs that we can afford the expense of childcare for our 3 kids; however, it drastically impacts our ability to save money for the future. If childcare costs were to increase, we would have no choice but to pay the increased cost as taking time away from our jobs would negatively impact the ability to obtain similar future employment. However, many families would not be able to afford an increase, which would impact the revenue stream for daycares and likely have an impact on childcare options in the area that would remain in business. We value our childcare more than anything and need these services to be able to work to provide for our family.

(54901) We can't work if there is no childcare.

(54901) The closure of the Child Care Center on the UW Oshkosh campus has been detrimental to the sustainability of my household work function. The majority of child care centers are on a 1+ year waitlist forcing me to identify child care solutions while attempting to be a full time employee with NO support or resources from the University. The cost of childcare is outrageous- we pay more in child care per month than we do our home mortgage.

(54136) Please fund childcare so parents and providers can pay their mortgages and stay employed. It is that serious and important! We have a worker shortage and need to keep both parents working!

(54446) Trying to find high quality, affordable daycare in my rural community is incredibly difficult, ESPECIALLY, for infants. It is despair inducing to see years long waitlists and not know if my wife or I will need to quit our jobs or go part time or be forced to move. I hear this from essentially every parent of young children in my life. Every parent knows how difficult raising young children can be and this is just another stressor that seems to be getting worse every year. Please do anything you can to help improve access and affordability.

(53517) We need affordable childcare to be able to work full time while our babies are being cared for by good quality childcare providers. I can't afford to quit my job to stay home to be with my children. They deserve good quality childcare and the opportunity to interact with other children. This will help so much as they learn to be respectable adults. I don't think it's fair for childcare to keep raising tuition just to keep their staff. as working parents struggle to pay for their daily necessities. Please help and keep this funding!!

(54901) Childcare needs to be subsidized so parents can afford it and staff can have a living wage. Childcare is infrastructure. I will vote for representatives who support subsidizing childcare.

(54901) Childcare is a vital need for our society. Please do not decrease funding. My husband and I have two small children and work full time. Without childcare options (ideally in a daycare setting) we could not provide for our family.

(54484) Please continue to help support our child care sites!! It is vitally important to help keep workers in their jobs!!

(54935) It's becoming a problem. We need places to take our children that are affordable but reliable. Seems we can't have both!

(54935) SUPPORT CHILDCARE CENTERS! We cannot live without these staff, our communities do not operate without our children being cared for (genuine, loving, educational care) and further funding is EXPECTED and REQUIRED to ensure our children are cared for to parents expectations. These centers care for our children while we work and take care of others, so let's take care of our child care providers.

(53574) I am able to afford child care but many people can not afford it. I hire employees for a hospital and it is very challenging to recruit staff and I think one reason for entry level staff is due to child care costs.

(54935) Child care is needed to keep our community and other businesses being able to function.

(53566) The most challenging part of finding a daycare was the fact that we couldn't choose, for lack of a better word, our facility/caregiver; we settled for what was available. For our first child, my husband and I were on 1.5 year waiting list—we would have had to have been on a list before we were even pregnant if we wanted a spot. That in itself is beyond ridiculous.

(54914) Early learning is just as important as school age learning, yet public childcare is not government funded. Childcare workers deserve a fair wage.

(53061) It's unbelievable that our most valuable asset & future leaders are the least of our investment.

(54932) With a decreasing number of people in the workforce, we cannot decrease child care funding and have more people leaving the workforce to care for their children. That will continue to exacerbate the problem.

(53916) Having a child today is already made extremely difficult for parents. Increased childcare costs will only make it harder on parents who are already struggling, and make it harder for businesses to find people to hire. With the Boomer generation retiring in droves, it's going to cause chaos.

(53719) Childcare is incredibly inadequate and unreliable for what it costs us as a family and is forcing us to consider moving out of state to find reliable care

(54891) A lack of affordable, quality child care is a challenge for so many families, especially in rural areas. These funds are vital and necessary to preventing major negative ripple effects throughout our local economies and society.

(54855) Affordable child care is a necessity for a robust economy and successful communities. In addition any politician that claims to be any amount of pro-life needs to actually support policies for live people rather than using inflammatory rhetoric to gain votes at the expense of the lives and livelihoods of constituents.

(54806) Quality childcare is absolutely critical for my husband and I to be able to work full-time jobs. In our rural area there is a significant lack of quality child care options available. If childcare rates increase we will likely be unable to afford to continue to work.

(54856) Reliable, qualified and cost effective child care is a necessity for working families.

(54806) Please continue the funding!

(53719) I know so many parents who struggle with finding adequate care. I drive nearly 2 hours a day because it is more affordable and my kids get better care than they would in Madison. I also took a 20% cut after my second child was born in order to make the drive - I'm a teacher and we have a national shortage. Many other teachers are in my same situation. Increased pay, benefits, and support is needed to make sure our childcare system does not fall apart.

(54806) please help to ensure quality child care is accessible and affordable!

(54891) The personality of my kids changed after starting in a quality daycare in February of 2022. They have learned how to interact with others among many other things and enjoy going to their daycare. It's imperative that all daycares are affordable for all.

(54806) Caring for our children means caring for the whole community. We need Better funding and support for child care workers and working parents.

(54806) Increase funding for child care providers and working parents!

(53560) Wisconsin's workforce needs affordable, high quality childcare for all ages, and childcare providers deserve a living wage for the incredibly important job they do.

(54806) Childcare is already a huge problem and major barrier to those contributing to workforce, contributing to commerce (through consuming goods and services, or investing in emerging businesses), not to mention reduces overall quality of life through added financial burdens and quality care options, don't make it even worse. This is economics 101 and simplistic need for any constituents with or thinking of having kids.

(53719) The cost is astronomical even for families that make a good above average income. The cost of childcare is more than our mortgage and shouldn't be forcing us to live paycheck to paycheck with no ability to save for medical emergencies or even investments and needed home improvements and the availability of care is limited, which also results in paying even higher cost to hire a nanny because I can't get my under 2 year old into a daycare center since they are all booked out for at least a year or two with waitlists not moving. Childcare should be subsidized as part of our taxes, so that it is quality

and affordable for all families regardless of income. It shouldn't cost more than a mortgage payment, or even as much or more than a 2-3 bedroom apartments rent. You shouldn't have to pay almost all of your salary or More after taxes to have quality childcare.

(54023) Daycare for my 1 child is DOUBLE my MOTGAGE, yet I am 1,000 short on income a month if I don't send her which is my money foe food. The prices are more than living in a house. Not to mention kids are always sick because you have to pay regardless if they are there or home ill.

(53532) I am praying for a miracle.

(53504) I am paying the highest rates in town for daycare and we are still worried about them finding good workers and giving the teachers competitive pay. The waiting list is very long to get in and there are NO other options in town with availability. Please help our daycares stay afloat.

(54956) The rates go up every year and is starting to not be affordable for families with multiple children in daycare.

(54913) Child care keeps women in the workforce!

(54915) Better child care means a better workforce, which means a better economy (which means more tax revenue).

(54942) The price of childcare has forced my wife and I to settle with having one child. We would try for a second child now but cannot afford the additional daycare cost, and by the time our current child is out of daycare we will not be able to have another child.

(53226) Child care is essential to our family and our ability to work and make money. It is also expensive, and the people that work their work tirelessly to provide our children with valuable experiences and keep them safe. We rely on childcare daily and without it, I'm afraid of what might happen to our family and income.

(54481) I would not be able to keep a roof over mine and my children ms heads if it wasn't for childcare

(54481) Employers cannot find employees because the work force is decreasing. Parents cannot find childcare to join the workforce or pay for childcare because of poor wages (how is minimum wage still \$7.25 but your talking about increasing childcare costs???) Affordable childcare, housing, medical care are non-existent, especially for single parents. Then those with careers and at the age of 34, I have a mortgage, student debt and childcare costs PLUS cares needed for my family. Increasing childcare would not help me with covering costs for my family.

(54937) Child care workers are extremely underpaid and completely necessary members of the workforce. Because of them, businesses can continue to function. Without them, business will suffer as their employees will be forced to quit jobs to care for their children. Please help with funding- our future depends on it.

(54915) Childcare costs more than my mortgage already, and I live in a 300k+ home. My center struggles with staffing already. I work for CPS and we can't find any daycare for the kids needing it because of closures. People have to work longer before retirement now, so grandparents are less often, and rarely to be realistic, an option for childcare. Our state needs funding for childcare and reform to childcare staffing issues needs to be addressed.

(54915) Our child care for 2 kids is already more monthly than our escrow mortgage. And we're operating at a negative income. I can't imagine what we would honestly do if costs go up 10-30%. That's not the government helping us.



(53590) Child Care is so important for so many families. It is just ridiculous that the possibility that funding will be cut to current providers. That would make an already hard situation of finding quality childcare almost impossible.

(54956) Child care workers are in my child's life almost as much as I am, and they are not compensated enough considering how much impact they have on my child. They need to be better paid which would result in more people willing to be child care providers and better educated. These are the most important years in a child's life and they deserve the best we can give them.

(54650) We need childcare support!

(54201) Child care is imperative in order for families to make the income needed to support basic needs. Child care employee wages need to be sustainable in order to ensure adequate staffing in childcare facilities.

(54642) We NEED our childcare, please don't take their grants away. It's the only way we can have ours affordable and have a great teachers.

(54891) Quality childcare is in dire need in my area - especially for infants. Waitlists are years long - impeding on my career and forcing me to work from home most days. Thankfully, I have family in the area willing and able to watch our child so I can physically go to work a few days a week.

(54311) You can't think everyone makes six-figure incomes. We need to take care of early childhood and young families if we want our communities to grow and be productive.

(54891) I had a well paying 9-5 job and when I had my daughter I was forced to quit due to NO AVAILABLE childcare. It's been 1.5 years on the waitlists and no calls. My husband is now our primary source of income and we struggle to buy groceries. We do not want to go on government assistance so I work odd jobs around his schedule. I know am a stay at home mom, cleaner at night, bring the kids to my other cleaning job during the day and a deckhand every weekend just to be able to make ends meet.

(54806) Child care is essential for the economy, if funding can not be found for child care in the budget then expect an even more dwindled workforce as people will not continue to pay these high prices when they can watch their kids themselves. Raising the wages in every other job has forced day care to do the same and i believe day care is an essential line on the budget for the state.

(54806) The childcare shortage makes it extremely difficult to work full-time. When childcare centers close or don't have enough staff to stay open, it causes a lot of missed work time. If we didn't have grandparents that were local and retired that help us out, I would not be able to work. With 3 children in daycare, the tuition is already almost an entire person's salary. I can't imagine rates going up any higher. Please keep providing funding to our childcare centers. They set our children up for success the rest of their lives. The staff at the childcare centers do not make high wages and they devote themselves to the futures of these children. They deserve to make livable wages too. If childcare centers close, parents will be forced to quit their jobs and then our already strained workforce will get even smaller. Just a vicious cycle!

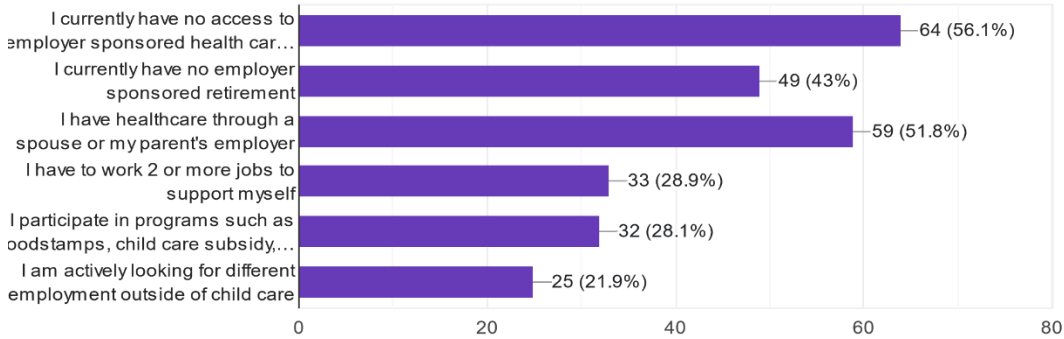
**Early Childhood/ Child Care Educators (care for children 6 weeks-11 in Department of Children and Families Certified or Licensed Family, Group, or Head Start businesses)**

The Early Childhood Educator provides both care and education through their positive interactions and relationships with those children their parents entrust with them while they work and continue their education. 90% of brain development happens in the first 5 years, creating the foundation for the trajectory of the rest of their lives.

Survey responses are as follows:

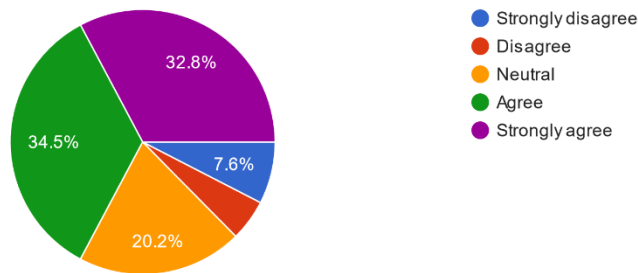
Select the following that apply to you (check all that apply)

114 responses



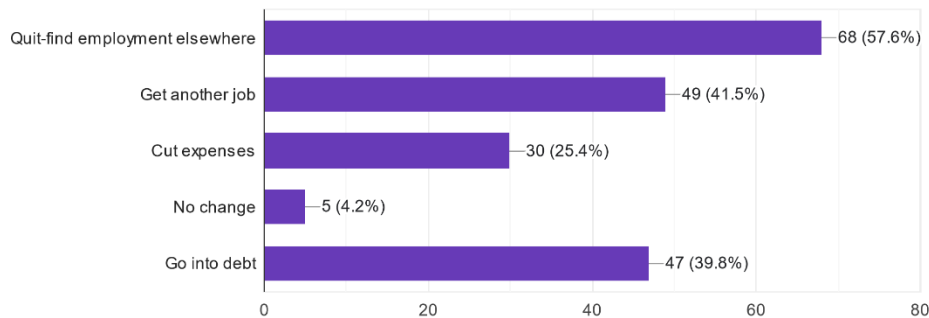
The low wages and lack of benefits affect my ability to fully meet the needs of the children I care for and educate

119 responses



If my wages/bonus are reduced I will do the following (check all that apply)

118 responses



## The Educators have this to say:

(53566) Without this funding will surely put an end to most child care facilities and doors will close. I hope you understand the domino effects of our doors closing. There will be no daycare for some of your employee's children, thus you will lose their abilities to be able to come to work. We all need to take care and look out for each other. Thank you for listening.

(53566) If Child Care Counts Program is reduced or stopped I will not be able to provide for myself and my Son.

(53932) I can make more money doing something else

(54911) Until we pay people a livable wage that coincides with their education level childcare will not succeed.

(53566) The lack of support that early childhood teachers get, we are unable to teach the kids as well as to provide them fully with tools and supplies need to help them grow. This all so makes it difficult to find teacher that want to stay for the low wages we make. As it is we are having a hard time making ends meet.

(53574) If Child Care Counts funding is not continued, I will have a difficult time keeping up with the high costs of insurance, food, utilities, and my mortgage. Daycare already has a slim profit margin. It might not be worth keeping my business open.

(53217) Quality physical facilities help create stable children.

(53095) Continued funding for child care is desperately needed. Families cannot afford to have rates continue to rise with the cost of everything else rising too.

(53716) These children are WI future, why aren't we investing in them and trying to set them up for success! Child Care Educators deserve better.

(54441) We are watching and caring for the most important thing in the world. We are paid little and very few benefits. There is no chance I would be here if I did not like children as much as I do. It is very sad that we are treated so poorly when children need the best care ever. If you have children of your own, please think about who is watching them and what they are getting paid. The turnover rate is horrible and terrible on children in all developing ways. Please help the children and families. Thanks for your time.

(53566) My job in early childhood is very important to help the very young learn and grow in a healthy, happy, caring environment filled with great learning. They need me. My being here has helped children over the past 29 years and I want that to continue. I make a difference!! We need to keep child care centers funded so we can be there for families.

(54449) Although I am not their parent,  
I care for them each day.  
I cuddle, sing, and read to them  
And watch them as they play.  
I see each new accomplishment  
And help them grow and learn.  
They come to me for comfort.  
I soothe away their tears.  
They proudly show their work to me.  
I give the loudest cheers.  
No, I am not their parent,  
But my role is just as strong.  
I know some day the time will come,  
When we may have to part.

But I know each child I have cared for,  
Is forever in my heart.

(54426) The childcare crisis has become more and more of an issue over the last few years. Many are leaving the field due to low wages. It is sad to see that high school teens working at a fast food place are making more than those with a bachelors degree in early childhood education. Childcare is becoming more of a necessity as many households need to be dual income to afford the cost of living that continues to inflate. Inflation and lack of recognitions is driving many of us out of the field in order to provide for our own families. We give so much to the families in our care and treat them as our own even though it results in our own families suffering due to lack of finances to support the household. For many of us, we stay because of our passion to teach little minds and feeling fulfilled in knowing we are shaping the future generation. The additional stipends I have been receiving has become a necessity for my family to pay my own increasing childcare expenses of having two children in care as well as covering copay's for medical expenses as my children are currently on badgercare and I cannot afford they plan offered by the center I work for. Without this money, I may need to find a second job or a different job to be able to afford groceries and other needs for my family. With that being said, it is my hope that child care workers begin to be recognized for the work they do and to be rightfully compensated as any other teacher.

(54484) Working in the child care industry for almost 7 years and only make \$10 per hour or less is highly unfortunate. Especially when having to pay for my own housing, education, and basic necessities. There is a reason why highschoolers do not always further their education as a child care teacher, because the pay is very low. Individuals can barely support themselves as a child care worker, but imagine if they have a family to take care of as well. As a society low socioeconomic levels, poverty levels, and homeless has increased largely. If we do not act now to advocate for change in child care employee workers this will only continue to increase. Let alone, child care might become obsolete therefore forcing parents to leave their positions to take care of their children. This does not only impact a single group of people, but it impacts everyone and anyone.

(53065) I have been in the Childcare field for more than 25 years and I do it because I care about the kids I care for. I care about where our country will be when these kids I care/cared for are in a position to be in the workforce or politics. I have never made much money doing this job and if I would have had to support myself I never could have afforded to live on the meager wage I made. I was lucky to have raised my child in my care while making enough money for my family of 3, me my husband and child, to have some spending money or groceries, but that is all. The Childcare business is deteriorating and no one can afford to make a career in it if they don't continue the Childcare Counts \$300 million in the budget. My boss has passed that money we have been receiving on to her loyal employees and is still struggling to find qualified staff to care for and teach, yes teach because we don't just babysit we teach children, at our center. We have a waiting list of over 200 and a closed classroom because we can't find staff. I am close to retirement and I will not even make enough in SS to support myself, so glad I have a husband to help with that as many women aren't that fortunate. Please push for this Childcare Counts money to pass in the budget. For the sake of our States future.

(54952) Family child care should count as non-profit work for public service loan forgiveness—it is not profitable but so needed.

(53186) Its beyond stupid that a McDonald or target worker makes more that me I'm required to have a education and training that is continuing

(54915) I have an Associates degree in early childhood education and am about 75% done with a double Bachelors, with degrees in both early childhood education and special education. When I graduate I will not only not get a raise but will most likely take a pay cut, with three college degrees. My employer does not want to do this, but we are a non profit organization and she has no choice with the prospect of severe funding cuts. With that pay cut I will no longer be able to support myself, and a teacher with 13 years of experience and 3 college degrees will need to look to other opportunities just to survive. I would make more walking in to a fast food restaurant as a 16 year old with no experience,

and that's a fact. Really great teachers are living on BELOW poverty wages trying to keep this industry afloat for the families who desperately need care. This is completely unsustainable.

(53188) Childcare wages do not adequately compensate the important work that we do. We work long days, deal with multiple children with special needs and behavior challenges, work with unresponsive or often abusive parents and deal with crushing administrative burdens. This situation is not sustainable.

(53224) We need at least 300 million in childcare funds to fully succeed as future children, parents, educators and a whole community. Childcare is the base of education and is an important role of our society. The children need it. Our parents need it. As well as all the educators who work in the field and sometimes are not as acknowledged.

(53566) In order for daycares to stay open, changes need to be made that support daycares. This includes, raises, retention programs, funds for furthering education, lower daycare costs for families, especially families with multiple children. A 5\$ reduced rate per additional child isn't saying much, when one child is 260\$/week, and that is on the low end of child care. I've seen it as high as 2k/month in some states for one child! That is ridiculous. Low income families struggle already! Child shares pays for some, but not all of daycare! You're still looking at about 700/mo for daycare, and that's based on my income, my child care for June, and my work schedule! 700\$/mo. That's more than my rent! I get 188\$/mo for foodshare, because I "make too much" to get anymore than that. I make 15\$/hr! How is that too much? Rents 685\$/mo, childcare 700\$/mo and foodshare 188\$/mo. Now I do get a discount because I work at the daycare my daughter goes to, but if things don't get fixed, I'll need a different job, thus making everything I just stated, a reality. So let's look at this, 685-rent, 700-childcare for one kid, electric 100, food difference, 150, car payment 250, car ins 100, that's already 1985\$/mo. I make 2100/mo before taxes! Take out taxes, and I'd have basically nothing left for the month. Changes need to be made! Funding needs to be there to help out families! This is getting insane. Daycare should not cost 1000\$/ plus a month for a single child. Fix it, or I fear; many families will be without daycare. Our center has already had a few families pull their kids due to rate increases. I fear many more families in our area and surrounding will too. And these aren't just families with one kid, they're families with like 2 and 3 kids. Fix it, before the damage is too far gone to fix.

(54656) We child workers need a raise. Our job is SO important but hard to continue this line of work for poverish wages of \$10.25 when I can flip burgers for \$18.00 hour

(54871) Childcare professionals have one of the most important jobs but yet are one of the lowest paid. If we are state licensed we must keep up on ongoing training. Our days are long. I am a Family Childcare provider so I offer care in my home which means I share my home with my business. That includes extra upkeep. We need the extra funds CCC offers to continue to offer quality childcare for children and their working parents.

(54467) Child care is so important the teacher and staff that care for these children deserve better. Child care teachers are the first Teachers these kids have they are the ones that step up every day and make sure all kids are cared for if more centers have to close or more people have to leave child care that means that the parents of the kids will have to quit their own jobs and the whole economy could potentially suffer from that happening. It all starts with child care.

(54022) Early childhood is the most important part of a person's life. It is where the most development happens and the early childhood educators should be recognized for helping the children is growing and learning. We are setting up the future, so it's about time we are acknowledged for it.

(53814) Young children (0-8 years old) are in a critical period of development that impacts their success in school. Quality early care & education is a key to their development. With wages & benefits so low, we are put our state financial viability in jeopardy

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education is a key to their development. With wages & benefits so low, we are put our state financial viability in jeopardy

(53527) Please we need this funds , to keep working with children's and their families, been an educator and helping young children teaching them is a great opportunity to grow with a great care.

(54016) How can you cut funding to one of the top demands across the nation? This will affect so many people and the access to childcare has been a struggle since world war 1. If you want to keep the employment rate going I wouldn't take away families resource of childcare

(53209) As a provider, if funds are cute ,it's a possibility I might lose staff as well as parents due to I would have to increase my fee for families just to meet the needs of staff

(54015) We barely make ends meet with the wages we earn and it is also very difficult to get and keep staff with what we make and the hours that we work. We need more support to be able to support the children and families we care for.

(54935) To continue to support the workforce, childcare should be supported through our elected representatives. To discontinue the government support would drastically harm childcare and in turn the workforce as a whole.

(53570) We make very little for what we do every day we are with children for almost 9 hours every day five days a week.

(53705) Yes

(53968) I once heard someone say that "Child care is subsidized through low wages from child care teachers" This has always stuck with me and sadly this has been true until Child Care Counts. Right now I am making an extra \$200 per month just in bonus through child care counts. In the last 2 years my wages have increase \$5.00 per hour. This has helped my family with our living expenses and bills. As much as I love working in child care this is not a sustainable field unless wage continue to increase with inflation and the rising cost of living.

(53959) I once heard someone say that "Child care is subsidized through low wages from child care teachers" This has always stuck with me and sadly this has been true until Child Care Counts. Right now I am making an extra \$200 per month just in bonus through child care counts. In the last 2 years my wages have increase \$5.00 per hour. This has helped my family with our living expenses and bills. As much as I love working in child care this is not a sustainable field unless wage continue to increase with inflation and the rising cost of living.

(53959) as a new mother and child care employee, I've struggled to make ends meet and provide for my daughter in the past, between the constant inflation, hospital bills, and rising cost of housing, it's been a struggle to say the least. however with the extra child care counts credits my employer has received, I've been given an extra \$200 a month and that has helped my family beyond belief. I can afford groceries, diapers, and gas and not have to pick which one to skip out on. As much as I love working in child care this is not a sustainable field unless wages continue to increase with inflation and the rising cost of living. We are in desperate NEED of child care providers, and we need to be willing to provide a decent wage for said workers so they are not just simply "scraping by" If we terminate the child care counts credits, our rates will increase by nearly 50% and only continue to increase until they are no longer affordable rates. We need to help keep the warm, and kind hearted humans that are taking care of future generations in child care, and not let them drowned financially. We spend our days playing with your babies, making sure they are healthy, fed, clean, learning, and most importantly happy. We deserve to have those things for ourselves as well, and with the child care counts credit, we ARE able to.

(53079) If child Care Counts is not added to the budget, I will be forced to find another job to help support my family. I will leave the childcare field.

(53014) Childcare needs help. It is failing. Without childcare everything would eventually crumble. Cant work without childcare!

(53014) Childcare is in need, we are using equipment and toys that are older than I am.. this goes to show that we are not funded sufficiently. We need your help.

(53959) I once heard someone say that "Child care is subsidized through low wages from child care teachers" This has always stuck with me and sadly this has been true until Child Care Counts. Right now I am making an extra \$200 per month just in bonus through child care counts. In the last 2 years my wages have increase \$5.00 per hour. This has helped my family with our living expenses and bills. As much as I love working in child care this is not a sustainable field unless wage continue to increase with inflation and the rising cost of living.

(54956) These children our the future. They should be our top priority and with that, those who care for them and teach them. It amazes me that one of the most important jobs is underpaid and that our children are not deemed as the highest priority for our future. People work in child care and education because they love children and want to change lives and better lives. If this work is not one someone can live on, then we face losing brilliant and qualified educators and caregivers.

(54726) Childcare is essential and childcare teachers are important. The children learn the most in there first few years of life when they are in childcare. This needs to be more of a livable career for people so children can learn from individuals that actually love being in the childcare field.

(53095) Something needs to change. If we raise childcare prices families won't be able to afford it and will pull kids which will cause us to shut down. Without childcare's people can't work, it isn't possible for many..., we need the funding we need to not loose pay and we cneed to keep childcare rates at a reasonable price

(53014) Need a better wage to keep Daycare Centers staffed and running

(53089) This industry is not drawing new employees. It is impossible to find new, qualified staff. If any of my co-workers leave due to their pay being decreased, thanks to less bonus money, I am not sure what our center will do. Paying a lot of overtime to those of us left is expensive and burns out employees fast. I could see us having to downsize if we lose staff.

(54911) I work under the umbrella of the YMCA (a non-profit) and though we have been progressive in our wages and benefits, with the funding ending, our parents are going to have an increased weekly rate, which is going to affect them and I worry. I also worry because we off competitive wages (for childcare) but our teachers will NOT be able to afford the raise in rates, which is so sad to me, that we don't even pay our teachers enough to afford the care we offer.

(54902) In my education is is taught that the first 5 years of a child's life are the most important as far as brain development. They develop more in those years than any other time and yet the educators that are entrusted to mold those little minds are under appreciated, under educated, and under paid. Often the people who work in these fields are under educated due to the lack of funds to pay staff enough to make ends meet. That means those children are getting entry level skills to teach them in a highly educated setting. Our children deserve the very best from day one and if that is to happen we need to be paid better wages to make sure the very best staff have the availability to stay.

(54449) Keep the wages of the employees going up and keep it so the parents can afford quality child care.

(54952) We the early childhood educators are your link to keep are state running. STOP think about if all childcare educators didn't work for a week and care for the children, who is parents who work. It would be pretty sad. No production will be done. We the early child educators are the link to the future of Wisconsin at this point in time I work at a Center I received numerous calls every day. For availability. The lack of childcare providers. We are unable to serve our state of Wisconsin in our communities. Let's look at this again you need workers to cheek care for children. Child educators, need benefits and wages to meet the standards of high inflation.

(53576) Childcare needs more funding, regardless of anything else. Daycares are a fundamental need, the pay is awful and the work is hard. We are their firsts in learning and shaping these little humans. We deserve more!

(53205) Our Early Childhood Education professionals need the recognition they deserve! They do this work because they are passionate about what they do and who they impact, the children! Without this profession, there would be a lot of families out of work due to lack of care. Please support our Early Childhood Educators and the families in our community by supporting the Child Care Counts program proposal!

(53566) In order to stay in the Childcare field in which I have worked for 34 years it is essential that the Childcare counts act continues. The raise I got in Sept. because of the Childcare counts money is what allowed me to stay in this profession. If the monies are not continued it will greatly impact all of our staff and the parents will not be able to afford the increase in tuition that will be needed for us to stay open. Childcare is the backbone of all other professions. If parents cannot afford to go to work, all other jobs will suffer.

(53566) Child care is one of the most important resources, and it's important to do the best and do everything we can for our children. It makes it more difficult to do when so many programs are running on empty.

(54935) Lower wages and lack of benefits mean quality teachers are not staying in childcare because they can't afford to. That means the children suffer and receive poor education and care because unqualified employees who don't actually care about the field are being hired just to meet ratios. These first years of their lives are the MOST important for learning and the children deserve the BEST care and education to meet their needs and get them a great jumpstart for their futures. **CHILDCARE TEACHERS ARE NOT BABYSITTERS.** And if they are acting as such, it's because the quality teachers are not receiving the pay and support they deserve to keep doing the very difficult work that they do!

(53566) CHILDREN need us. PARENTS need us. YOU need us.

We are the ones who start these kids' education, socializing skills in a group environment and this gives them a headstart on their education and hopefully make them stable and happy. If we are not here for them they may not have that little bit of an edge when they start school and may fall behind right away. Now days i think standards for them are higher when they start school.

Please consider this...If there are no more Daycare for all these great kids, then parents have no place to take their kids and their will have to quit their jobs.

Do any of your employees have children going to daycare?

Thanks for listening,  
Sandy Ritschard  
Rainbow Childcare Inc

(53057) We should be paid more for how many children we have to look after and how underappreciated we are. Or lower the ratio of children to teachers.

(54441) We do so much for these children and their families. We spend as much time with their children as they do. I love what I do and continue to do it for that reason. I work 2 jobs to support myself and I shouldn't have to. If the funding gets cut completely I risk not getting much needed raises to help support myself and daughter. We are also a profession seeking help and can't get the help we need because our wages aren't high enough. We are constantly struggling to find and keep staff and without this money I believe we will struggle even more.

(54937) Without this continued funding the child care teacher crisis in Wisconsin will only increase. As a state, we need to lobby to draw qualified individuals back to the child care profession. My center has at least 5-10 inquires daily of families looking searching for care for their child/children. Our wait list has over 200 families on it. We can not run at full capacity because of the teacher shortage and we are



extremely close to cutting back more available care. Something needs to be done to support child care teachers in the area of competitive wages, availability of benefits and general community support to make this a field people want to work in. Many people are unable to work because they can't find quality care for their children. This is a vicious circle with with a horrible outcome for our communities. It's time to work together to end this cycle.

(53006) Child care is at the center of our Community. Without it, so many essential workers would need to find alternate ways to either get to work or have to quit themselves. Without essential workers, healthcare, education, trades workers could all be effected. I feel there would be huge choices families would unfortunately have to make.

As a child care educator, the impact that I make on a child's life is lifelong. I don't just sit back and watch kids play all day. I'm guiding them to make good life choices, decision making, not to mention school related skills. I teach pre-writing, reading, math, build large and small muscles, help with speech, the list goes on and on. Without childcare, not only does our Community suffer, our State suffers and the majority of people who live in it.

(53091) This was supposed to be my forever career. I can't afford to live like this so I unfortunately made the decision to go back to school so that I can get a job that pays.

(54146) I'm the workforce behind the workforce because I do my job each day it allows the families of the children in my care to go to work each day. Essentially the backbone of the economy.

(54935) We are important for the start of these young Americans and we work hard or harder then others in schools and we school get the benefit for doing the work we do.

(54935) Teachers and childcare workers are raising the next generation. We deserve better pay.

(54935) Our jobs very important and our wages should reflect this. If we are not taking care of children other workers will not be able to do their jobs either.

(54806) Child care workers are being paid often times much less than fast food, gas station, and grocery employees despite having a degree in the field in addition to continued education. Do we really want to lose MORE child care workers?

(53566) My wages aren't enough to even cover my rent, utilities, and groceries for my family each month.

(54456) Child care is crucial to the working class. If there is little access to affordable child care, people cannot work. Child care educators are part of the working class and need livable wages.

(54636) I can barely make my payments or afford anything with inflation, these bonuses that we have received are pretty much the only thing keeping me a float. I make \$13 an hour and can go to any fast food restaurant near me and make \$16+ an hour. My little brother makes more than me working at Walmart. Daycare can be a very high stress, high demanding job and obviously very low reward payment and benefit wise. Legally we need hours of trainings that cost out of pocket to attend to even work in childcare. The grants have helped pay for these trainings so we didn't have to. If they cut these grants I will have to quit my childcare career and go any where else.

(54636) I have been depending on these bonuses to get me by. I am only 21 and I live paycheck to paycheck to make my payments. I only make \$13 an hour with no benefits. Although I know that my employer can hardly afford to pay us more, due to increased prices in everything in our daily lives (groceries, supplies, bills), childcare teachers deserve more reward for the high stress job that is ESSENTIAL to our economy! These bonuses have also helped to improve our center, by allowing us to be able to buy better equipment for the children, healthier groceries, and even exempting parents from paying AND paying staff when we've had to close for covid and other emergencies. Without these bonuses that would not be possible, as we would not be able to afford to pay the bills to keep the center running. If I would not even consider a different childcare facility than the one I work for now. ost all jobs in my area start at \$15 an hour, my little brother and cousins make more than me stocking shelves at Walmart. With that being said, if the state goes forward with cutting the bonuses, my

coworkers and I will have to find a job elsewhere. If I have to find a new job, I would not even consider a different childcare facility than the one I am at. Not to mention, most all jobs (besides daycare) in my area start at or over \$15 an hour, my little brother and cousins make more than me stocking shelves at Walmart.

(54481) Children are our most valuable asset, why do we not invest more money to help them learn and grow to be productive citizens.



