

What else might legislators and their constituents want to know?

Preparing for Capitol Day 2025

If child care really costs so much to provide, why should taxpayers have to bail them out of an unsustainable business model? They should charge more or find another business model.

For Michigan's economy to thrive, we need a reliable workforce, and that requires parents to have safe, affordable child care. Child care is a necessary component of a functioning economy; it is infrastructure — just like roads — that enables local, regional and state economies to flourish.

What's the problem with people quitting the workforce to stay home with their children? Many people would love the opportunity to be home with their kids.

This sentiment disproportionately affects women in the workforce. Mothers unable to find a child care program were significantly less likely to be employed than those who found a child care program, whereas there was no impact on fathers' employment. More mothers would increase their earnings and seek new job opportunities if they had greater access to reliable and affordable child care, according to the Center for American Progress.⁷

Is this really that big of an issue? Kids all go to school eventually, anyway.

There's an opportunity for more Michigan children to start school better prepared. Because early childhood care and education programs in Michigan are underfunded, children don't have the foundation needed to succeed when kindergarten begins.

How can I (lawmaker) personally help you move forward to increase or fully fund programs in Michigan?

Currently, Michigan is investing a third of what's needed to ensure early care and education for every low-income working family. As a first step, the legislature needs to invest in child care provider scholarship rates.

Share personal experiences:

Professionals' story:

Share how persistent underinvestment in the early childhood system has impacted your ability to remain in the field of early childhood.

- How has low subsidy rates affected the number or types of families you are able to serve? For instance, do low subsidy rates prevent you from serving families using child care financial assistance?
- How has the workforce crisis impacted you and your work?
- Have you had difficulty retaining and recruiting staff?
- How many professionals do you know who live in poverty or utilize public assistance for their own family due to low wages and/or poor benefits?

Parents' story:

Share how low investment in early childhood programs have impacted your family.

- How has this impacted the availability of services for your family, and the impact that it had on your family? (e.g. has it affected your ability to find or retain a job?)
- What challenges have you experienced when trying to access early childhood services?

⁷<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/child-care-crisis-keeping-women-workforce/>