May 31, 2022

Dear North Carolina Legislators,

Thank you for your attention to the urgent issue of access to health care, and the health care coverage gap in North Carolina.

We the undersigned are all early childhood educators. We are writing today to say that increasing access to affordable health care is critical to ensuring a strong and stable early childhood workforce. We urge you to do all you can to close the “coverage gap” in North Carolina by expanding Medicaid.

The most recent survey of NC’s Early Childhood Workforce found that 1 in 5 early childhood educators have no health coverage. Early childhood educators work hard, but many do not earn enough to afford private health insurance. They are among those stuck in North Carolina’s “coverage gap.”

Early childhood educators foster the brain development of young children, setting the foundation for future learning. A strong child care workforce is also critical for North Carolina’s employers.

Despite their significant impact on our state and its children, many early childhood educators who struggle with health challenges are unable to see a doctor when they need one.

Expanding coverage is a proven strategy to help early educators to focus less on making ends meet, and more on supporting the youngest generation of North Carolinians – and their families.

Thank you for your hard work for our great state and its people.

Sincerely,
The undersigned Early Childhood Education professionals from across North Carolina

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1 Source: NC Child Care Services Association. 2019 Workforce Study: Working in Early Care and Education in North Carolina
Shelby Ward
Teacher
Asheville, NC

Megan Woodiwiss
Teacher
Verner Center for Early Learning
Black Mountain, NC

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Black Mountain, NC

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Bolivia, NC

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Smart Start of Transylvania County
Brevard, NC

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Antoinette's Child Care
Cameron, NC

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Verner Center for Early Learning
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Carrboro, NC

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Carthage, NC

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Children's Courtyard
Carthage, NC

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White Plains Children’s Center
Cary, NC

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Smart Start Program Evaluator
Justine Can Do It, LLC
Chapel Hill, NC

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Director
Footprints Learn n Play
Charlotte, NC

Barbara Conner
Owner/Provider
Babbsys Childcare
Charlotte, NC

Chiffon Crawley
Owner/Teacher
Creative Kids University-North
Charlotte, NC

Alyssa Disney
Preschool teacher
Charlotte, NC

Devonya Govan-Hunt
Black Child Development Institute - Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

Coronica Hall
Carter's Child Care
Charlotte, NC

Sundra Hanna
FCCH Provider
Sunny Kids Academy
Charlotte, NC

Lauren Harris
Owner, Teacher, Administrator
World of Wonder Christian Childcare
Charlotte, NC

Tameka Hill-Monroe
Owner
Banana-Rama Daycare
Charlotte, NC

Cylathia Horne
FCCH Provider
Kids Cyclone Inc.
Charlotte, NC

Kim Jant
FCCH Provider
Quality Care
Charlotte, NC

Courtney Jant
Teacher
Quality Care
Charlotte, NC

Gail Leach
Owner
Apron Patch Childcare
Charlotte, NC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Title</th>
<th>Organization/Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheila Locklear</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Lowery</td>
<td>Home Day Care Provider</td>
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<td>Shonda McCrory</td>
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<td>Margaret McMichael</td>
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<td>Maria Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Pickens</td>
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<td>Vantoinette Savage</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alethea Sinclair</td>
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<td>Gina's Learn N Play Home</td>
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<td>Janie Truesdale</td>
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<td>Wanda Ward</td>
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<td>Danielle Caldwell</td>
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<td>Chanelle Croxton</td>
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<td>Valerie Cureton</td>
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<td>Brenda Williamson</td>
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<td>Janet Joyce</td>
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<td>Nichole Wells</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Cox</td>
<td>Department Head of Early Childhood</td>
<td>Greensboro, NC</td>
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<td>Sharon Cooper</td>
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<td>Vicki Rouse</td>
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<td>Christina Constance</td>
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<td>Alicia Fordham</td>
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<td>Elazer Green</td>
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<td>Brandi Sheridan</td>
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<td>Ann Benfield</td>
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<td>Kannapolis, NC</td>
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<td>Tiffany Cole</td>
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<td>Leicester, NC</td>
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<td>Kelly Lantz</td>
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<td>James Marshall</td>
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<td>Tomise Jones</td>
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<td>Felicia Alnehmi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Carter</td>
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<td>Kim Noble</td>
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<td>Joshua Owens</td>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
<td>Lumberton, NC</td>
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<td>Vicky Spaulding</td>
<td>Daycare Owner/Teacher</td>
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<td>Brittanly Thompson</td>
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<td>Adrienne Hayes</td>
<td>Center Director</td>
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<td>Kaitlin Locklear</td>
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<td>Michele Cheek</td>
<td>Family Services</td>
<td>McLeansville, NC</td>
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<td>Amanda Gregory</td>
<td>Early Childhood Professional</td>
<td>Millers Creek, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Holt</td>
<td>Lead Instructor, Early Child Care</td>
<td>North Wilkesboro, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaitlyn Guyer</td>
<td>Verner Center for Early Learning</td>
<td>Old Fort, NC</td>
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<td>Chasity Abbott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brittney Gauldin</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
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<td>Whitney Ward</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacey Locklear</td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>Pembroke, NC</td>
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Laoni Miller  
Teacher  
Pinebluff, NC

Jennifer Derby  
Early Childhood Instructor  
Pinetops, NC

Holly Norton  
Center Director/Teacher  
Holly House Preschool LLC  
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Lynn Mejia  
Teacher  
Raeford, NC

Anita Christmas  
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Teacher  
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Logan Jackson  
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Frankie Lemmon School  
Raleigh, NC

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Administrator  
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Reidsville, NC

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Sheameka Carter  
Teacher  
Reidsville, NC

LaChandra Collins-Pass  
Director  
Chads Care  
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DaVida Dawson  
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First Presbyterian Church CDC  
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Wendy Pavon  
Family Leader  
Reidsville, NC

Lissette Rodriguez  
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Rockingham County Partnership for Children  
Reidsville, NC

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Cambridge Academy  
Reidsville, NC

Suzanne Studdard  
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Cambridge Academy  
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Pamela Walker  
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Head Start  
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Rocky Mount, NC

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Director  
Jessie Little Blessings  
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Open Arms Daycare  
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Curtin Dawn  
Director  
Statesville, NC

Lisa Familo  
Executive Director  
Statesville, NC

Kim Tatum  
Asst. Director  
Stoneville, NC

Gregory Brown  
Maintenance Director  
Swannanoa, NC

Dani Ellis  
Teacher  
Swannanoa, NC

Judy Goldsmith  
Food Prep  
Verner Center

Janice Edgerton  
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Region A Partnership for Children  
Sylva, NC

Jivonna McLeod  
Teacher  
Vass, NC

Brooke Rucker  
Center Director  
Waxhaw, NC

Candice Choudry  
Teacher  
West End, NC

Candice Ferguson  
Teacher  
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Happy Kids Development Center  
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Wilmington, NC

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Aysha Gaines  
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Wilmington, NC

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