

**EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS**  
**LETTER TO NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY RE: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

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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.<sup>1</sup> 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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<sup>1</sup> Source: NC Child Care Services Association. *2019 Workforce Study: Working in Early Care and Education in North Carolina*

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS LETTER RE: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

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