

2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

EARLY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILDREN & CHILD CARE CHOICES FOR WORKING PARENTS

North Carolina has one of the highest rates of working parents with young children. Yet 44% of the state's families live in a child care desert, where there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots. Creating a statewide floor for subsidized childcare reimbursement rates creates greater equity in funding across the state for both child care centers and family child care homes, particularly in rural communities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Create a new statewide floor to help families in every county access quality child care close to home, while supporting local businesses.

PREVENT YOUTH SUICIDE & ADDRESS THE CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Suicide is the leading cause of death for youth ages 10-14 in North Carolina. It is crucial that trained professionals can support our children when they are in crisis.

RECOMMENDATION:

Strengthen suicide prevention education for teachers so that educators can recognize and respond to warning signs and risk factors of youth suicide, as well as adding additional funding for suicide prevention resources and strengthening the statutory language.

NC Child will continue advocating for Preventing Child Deaths in partnership with the Child Fatality Task Force, Group Prenatal Care, Kin Gap Training, Pyramid Model, and The Family Support Network.

ABOUT NC CHILD

Founded in 2014, NC Child works to eliminate the barriers that stand in kids' way. NC Child is a nonpartisan organization that advocates for policies that improve the lives of all North Carolina children. Each year, we work diligently to present the legislature with evidence-based, community-informed policy proposals.