

Over 120 Texas Groups Urge HB 500 Conference Committee to Support Full \$100 Million Investment in Child Care

High-quality child care enables parents to work and provide their children with opportunities to learn, socialize, and build new skills during the critical age for brain development. Unfortunately, Texas is experiencing a child care crisis, and many working families are unable to find and afford the high-quality care they need. This crisis is:

- **A challenge for children's future success in school:** Many children end up in lower quality programs during the critical early years of brain development.
- **A challenge for working families:** Parents often have very few choices for high-quality care— and the available options pose a huge and often untenable financial burden.
- **A challenge for child care programs:** Because of a lack of funding, programs struggle to recruit and retain staff and serve parents in need.
- **A challenge for businesses in all sectors of the Texas economy:** Texas businesses rely on high-quality child care to recruit and retain an effective and reliable workforce.

The most recent state data show 95,000 families on the waiting list for the program. In many areas, families can expect to be on the waitlist for anywhere from six months to two years. **The House's supplemental budget bill, HB 500, includes \$100 million for child care scholarships.** Through these scholarships, more Texas parents will be able to get off the waitlist and go to work while their children receive an enriching early childhood education. We urge the HB 500 conferees to take this meaningful step to support approximately 10,000 Texas children and their families.

Supporting Organizations

Abilene Chamber of Commerce	Children Come 1st	Early Matters Texas
Alice in Wonderland	Children's Defense Fund-Texas	Easterseals Rio Grande Valley
Allies in Hope	Cielito Lindo Spanish Immersion Preschool	Educational First Steps
The American Indians in Texas	City of Wichita Falls, Texas	Ellis County Homeless Coalition
Any Baby Can of Southwest Texas	Coalition of Texans with Disabilities	El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Austin Chamber of Commerce	Collaborative for Children	Fight Crime: Invest in Kids- Texas
Austin/Travis County Success By 6	Common Ground Ministries	Fort Worth Chamber
Bachman Lake Together	Community Foundation of Abilene	Gingerbread House Day Care
BCFS Health and Human Services Community Services Division	Conroe/Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce	Gingerbread Kids Academy
Big Thought	Dallas Afterschool	The Goddard School Celina
Blessed Sacrament Academy	Dallas College School of Education	Greater Houston Partnership
Brighton Center	Dallas Regional Chamber	Greater Longview United Way
Buckner International	Dillon Joyce Ltd	Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
Care.com	Discovery World Learning Centers	Greater Waco Chamber
Child Care Associates	Early Care & Education Consortium	Green Space Learning
Children at Risk	Early Learning Alliance	Green Space Nature Preschool

Horizon Learning Center	Pleasant Place Childcare	Texas Hospital Association
Horizon Texas Conference UMC Church and Society	Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services	Texas Impact
Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce	Primrose Schools	Texas Licensed Child Care Association
KinderCare Learning Companies	Project Lead the Way	Texas Restaurant Association
The Learning Experience	ReadyNation- Texas	Texas Medical Association
Learning Leaf Early Childhood Education	The Religious Action Center - Texas	Texas Pediatric Society
Lena Pope	Respite Care of San Antonio	Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Lubbock Area United Way	Rise Academy	TexProtects
The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce	Rose's Learning Garden	The Samaritan Inn
Lubbock Economic Development Alliance (LEDA)	Rowlett Chamber of Commerce	United Way for Greater Austin
Lumin Education - Home Visiting	SA Fatherhood Campaign	United Way of Amarillo and Canyon
Madonna Center, Inc.	SAISD Early Childhood	United Way of Central Texas
Magical Moments Daycare Center	The Salvation Army - Orange County	United Way of Greater Houston
Manna House	The Salvation Army Red Shield Youth Center of Waxahachie	United Way of Lamar County
Mentors Care	San Antonio College Early Child Program	United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
Methodist Healthcare Ministries	Small Business Majority	United Way of Orange County
Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce	St. Matthew United Methodist	United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County
Mission: Readiness- Texas	St. Peter United Church of Christ	United Way of West Ellis County
Mixon Education Consulting	Sunflower Playschool	United Ways of Texas
National Council of Jewish Women Texas	Texans Care for Children	Uplift Education - Dallas, TX
North Texas Early Education Alliance	Texas Alliance of YMCAs	Waxahachie Family YMCA
North Texas Parent and Child Development, Inc.	Texas Association for the Education of Young Children	Workforce Solutions North Texas
Out to Play, Inc.	Texas Association of Business	YMCA of Greater San Antonio
Owlates Childcare LLC	Texas Association of Goodwills	YMCA of Southeast Texas
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center	Texas Business Leadership Council	Young Women's Christian Association of San Antonio
Play 2 Learn	Texas CASA	YWCA El Paso del Norte Region
	Texas Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	YWCA of Lubbock

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