Child care is the workforce behind the workforce.

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State the Facts

- Decision-makers essential role of child care and early learning for children, working families, and the economy.
- Businesses and families need access to safe, quality, and affordable child care.

Make the Ask

What kind of federal and state investments do you support that would increase families' economic security and children's success?

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#SolveChildCare

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State the Facts

- In a recent survey of early childhood educators, over half of respondents said their programs were experiencing a staffing shortage driven by low wages.
- A majority of respondents in the same survey said they had to raise families' tuition to afford increasing operational costs.

Make the Ask

Moderate funding increases help child care programs and families stay afloat in the short term, but don't solve the underlying challenges. What are your plans to provide sustainable support for our nation's child care and early learning systems?

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When my child care works, so do I.

State the Facts

- High quality child care helps parents get and keep a job, while boosting the well-being of children

- But in 47 states, the price of center-based child care for two children exceeded families' average annual rent payments.[1]

[1] Child Care Aware of America. "Child Care in America: Price & Supply." 2025.

Ask the Candidate

How will you help families afford the kind of high-quality child care program they need to thrive?

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#InvestInKids

State the Facts

- An underfunded child care system means that 82% of children do not receive the child care assistance for which they are eligible[1]
- Too many children are starting behind and often staying behind, limiting their potential and their contributions to our country

[1] Estimates of Child Care Subsidy Eligibility & Receipt for Fiscal Year 20210, ASPE, DHHS https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/child-care-eligibility-fy2021

Ask the Candidate

What are your plans to invest in affordable, high-quality early learning programs?

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Early childhood educators are highly skilled and essential workforce.

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State the Facts

- Early childhood educators have complex and demanding jobs, yet earn so little—a median wage of $13.07/hour—that nearly half must rely on a public safety net program in order to make ends meet.[1]

- 86% of voters say they would support a public investment in early childhood education that is used to increase educators' wages and provide them better career development opportunities.[2]

[1] Early Childhood Workforce Index 2024. Center for the Study of Child Care Employment. University of California, Berkeley.

[2] "Voters Overwhelmingly Support Federal Investments in Child Care and Preschool" bipartisan market research polling data. First Five Years Fund. Released December 2025.

Ask the Candidate

What are your plans to support and invest in the early childhood workforce?

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High quality early childhood education is:

- good for children
- good for families
- good for educators
- good for small businesses
- good for the workforce of today
- good for the workforce of tomorrow
- good for the economy
- good for our country

State the Facts

- The first years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all future learning [1]
- High-quality early childhood education delivers a 13% return on investment [2]

1 Center on the Developing Child. Harvard University.

2 The Lifecycle Benefits of an Influential Early Childhood Program. The Heckman Equation, 2017.

Ask the Candidate

How do you plan to improve opportunities for children to access high-quality early childhood education?

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