READY NATION
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

April 15, 2022

Dear Legislators,

As members of ReadyNation, a bipartisan membership organization of more than 3000 business leaders – including over 50 in Michigan – we are committed to building a skilled workforce by promoting solutions that prepare children to succeed in education, work, and life

High-quality early care and education programs build a stronger workforce now and in the future. For that reason, we ask you to support the following programs:

- **Increase provider reimbursement rates for the child care subsidy** by 45 percent above the rates in FY21 to bring Michigan provider rates closer to the true cost of care, and to encourage more child care providers to join the child care subsidy program and provide care for low-income families.
- **$5.4 million in additional funding to expand access to social-emotional and behavioral support** for child care providers statewide through the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation program.
- **$7.1 million funding increase for *Early On***, Michigan's early intervention program that helps infants and toddlers, from birth to age 3, with developmental delays and disabilities.
- **$2 million funding increase for voluntary home visiting programs** that serve at-risk children and their families by teaching effective parenting techniques and knowledge of developmental stages, and offering connections to healthcare, housing, food, and other social services.
- **$75.5 million funding increase for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)**, the state's free preschool program for four-year-olds; **Great Start Collaboratives**, local groups of early childhood stakeholders working to improve child outcomes; and **a home-based preschool pilot** to help home-based child care providers expand to offer preschool that is similar in content to GSRP.

Decades of research shows that the experiences children have in their earliest years, during a period of critical brain growth, set the foundation for future development and success. We strongly urge you to support these investments in Michigan's children and families so they have access to high-quality early learning opportunities now since they are the future workforce that will drive success in the global marketplace.

Sincerely,

*Please Note: Below signatories lend their names in an individual capacity, not as a company representation. Company/organization names are included for information purposes only.

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