



**Email Template for Contacting Your Lawmakers:
Support for a Child Care Educator Tax Credit**

Use this template, and add your personal connection to this issue and why it is important to you.

Hi, my name is [first and last name]. I am a [parent, teacher, advocate, etc] from [your city] and a constituent of [your legislator's name]. I am writing to urge you to invest in Governor Whitmer's proposed Early Childhood Educator Tax Credit.

The tax credit would help stabilize an essential business needed by tens of thousands of working parents.

Today, there are inherent problems in the child care industry that you should know about. Early educator wages fall far behind the rest of the education field, with almost one in five earning incomes that are below the poverty line. Profit margins for child care businesses are also razor-thin, leaving business owners unable to pay competitive wages. As a result, these essential businesses are left struggling to find enough qualified teachers to fill their classrooms. Without available teachers, classrooms sit empty. Lack of child care has already prevented 9 percent of the state's workforce from going to work because they have no one to care for their children.

Access to highly educated, experienced teachers is critical for teaching our youngest children the foundational skills they will need to be prepared for K-12 schooling. Today, one in four children in the U.S. is not ready for kindergarten. To counter this, young children need high-quality early learning opportunities, which are proven to reduce disparities in school readiness by income and race. Helping child care providers recruit and retain highly qualified teachers will prepare our little ones for school success so that they can grow up to become dynamic leaders in Michigan's workforce.

Luckily, Governor Whitmer proposed a refundable tax credit to allow early educators to keep more of their hard-earned wages. The tax credit would reduce teacher turnover in early childhood settings, encourage early educators to earn educational credentials, and incentivize more Michiganders to pursue a career in early childhood education.

The Governor's proposal offers a \$1,000-\$3,000 refundable Child Care Educator Tax Credit for child care, afterschool, and preschool teachers.

As your constituent, I ask you to please consider granting this workforce \$7,000-\$9,000 refundable tax credits, and expanding it to all staff employed at early childhood education programs. If we don't support this workforce now, Michigan's current shortage of child care slots will only intensify.

In developing this legislation, please ensure that experts, educators, and other early childhood stakeholders are consulted so that it has the greatest positive impact on the early childhood field.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing [your legislator's name]'s position on this matter.

Sincerely,
(Your first and last name)