



December 9, 2021

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

On behalf of the Ohio House Democratic Caucus, we urge you to use your executive powers to line-item veto the provision suspending the Step Up to Quality Program through December 31, 2022 in Substitute House Bill 169.

Sub. House Bill 169 appropriates much-needed funding for K-12 schools, as well as child care centers across Ohio. These federal funds are an opportunity to invest in education and children, as well as working people, families and the communities they live in. However, in addition to these crucial funds, the bill also suspends the requirement that child care centers participate in Ohio's Step Up to Quality rating system in order to receive public funds.

The suspension of this requirement does not solve the issues faced by Ohio families in accessing affordable and quality child care or create a long-term solution for providers. During the recent budget process, a Study Committee on Ohio's Publicly Funded Child Care and Step Up to Quality Program was created to address accessibility to child care for all Ohio families.

The late addition of this provision would be an ineffective policy opposed by advocates and a detriment to the use of taxpayer dollars to provide quality early childhood education to all Ohio children. The need for these funds is clear to Ohioans and should not be held in the balance at the expense of our children and families. We request that you veto this provision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emilia Sykes".

Emilia Sykes
Minority Leader
House District 34

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristin Boggs".

Kristin Boggs
Assistant Minority Leader
House District 18

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Brown".

Richard Brown
Assistant Minority Whip
House District 20

Paula Hicks-Hudson
Minority Whip
House District 44

Phil Robinson
House District 6

Kent Smith
House District 8

Janine Boyd
House District 9

Terrence Upchurch
House District 10

Stephanie Howse
House District 11

Juanita Brent
House District 12

Michael J. Skindell
House District 13

Bride Rose Sweeney
House District 14

Jeffrey A. Crossman
House District 15

Monique Smith
House District 16

Adam Miller
House District 17

Mary Lighthbody
House District 15

Dr. Beth Liston
House District 21

David Leland
House District 22

Allison Russo
House District 24

Rep. Dontavius Jarrells
House District 25

Latyna M. Humphrey
House District 26

Jessica Miranda
House District 28

Brigid Kelly
House District 31

Catherine Ingram
House District 32

Sedrick Denson
House District 33



Tavia Galonski
House District 35



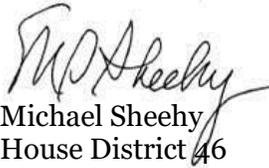
Casey Weinstein
House District 37



Willis E. Blackshear, Jr.
House District 39



Lisa Sobecki
House District 45



Michael Sheehy
House District 46



Thomas West
House District 49



Joe Miller
House District 21



Michele Lepore-Hagan
House District 58



Daniel P. Troy
House District 60



Michael J. O'Brien
House District 64

