

# Legislative Updates

## Think Babies™ NC 2021-2025

### Prenatal to Age 3 Policy Priorities



Updated August 23, 2021

Category	Think Babies™ NC Policy Priority	Bill Filed	Primary Sponsors/Legislators Involved	Notes
<b>Healthy Beginnings</b>	Close the health care coverage gap	H470 “Medicaid Expansion”	Reps. Graham (D), Insko (D), Pierce (D), Smith (D)	
	Workplace pregnancy accommodations	H514/S633 “NC Healthy Pregnancy Act”	Reps. von Haefen (D), Hawkins (D), Cunningham (D), Alston (D)  Sens. Murdock (D), Batch (D), Marcus (D)	Endorsed by Child Fatality Task Force  Also included in “NC Omnibus” H507/S632
	Extension of postpartum Medicaid coverage	H316/S530 “Support Maternal Health/Medicaid for 12 Months Postpartum”	Reps. Insko (D), Reives (D), Cunningham (D), Cooper-Suggs (D)  Sens. Burgin (R), Krawiec (R), Corbin (R)	Included in Senate budget
<b>Supported Families</b>	Paid family and medical leave	S564/ H bill forthcoming “NC Paid Family Leave Insurance Act”  S648/no H companion “Enact Paid Parental Leave for State Employees”	Sens. Batch (D), Salvador (D), Crawford (D) Rep. Meyer (D)  Sens. Chaudhuri (D), Batch (D), Britt (D)	Paid leave for public school teachers included in House budget
	Paid sick leave/kin care and safe days	“Enact Kin Care” - bill forthcoming in the House, no Senate companion  S457/H bill forthcoming “NC Healthy Families Healthy Workplaces Act”	Reps. Clemmons (D), Riddell (R)  Sen. Robinson (D) Rep. Fisher (D)	Endorsed by Child Fatality Task Force (kin care/safe days)
	Earned Income Tax Credit	H499/S576 “Recovery Rebate for Working Families Act”	Reps. Harris (D), Cooper-Suggs (D), Farkas (D), Lofton (D)  Sens. deViere (D), Garrett (D), Salvador (D)	

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Early Learning	Child care subsidy assistance			ARP funds included in House and Senate budgets
	Child care subsidy rates	H574/ no Senate companion "Revise Child Care Subsidy Rates."	Reps. Willis (R), von Haefen (D), Szoka (R), Clemmons (D)	
	Early childhood workforce compensation	H262/S464 "Smart Start Funds"	Reps. Lambeth (R), White (R), Potts (R), Adcock (D)  Sens. Krawiec (R) Burgin (R), Perry (R)	Smart Start funds included in House and Senate budget  ARP funds for Child Care WAGES included in House budget

#### Priorities without a current legislative ask:

- Expand early intervention Part C eligibility – included in Governor's Budget
- Adopt early childhood mental health competencies
- Expand home visiting and parenting education programs – included in Smart Start bill
- Increase the supply of high-quality infant-toddler child care