

2022 North Carolina General Assembly Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Karen Burnette McCracken **District:** Senate District 50

Party Affiliation: Democrat **Current Occupation:** Account Executive with Five Forty Broadcasting, LLC

1. What are your views on the needs of young children (prenatal to age 5) and what specific steps would you take to address these needs?

Safety and Engagement. You hear it all the time, "They're growing up so fast." Yes, they are. Their brains and personalities are developing, building a foundation for life. Insecurities developed during these years stay with them throughout their lives. Let's position them for success by addressing food and housing insecurity and by offering more early childhood education opportunities. Let's empower parents to personally engage with their children so they don't feel that they have to rely on professional teachers and electronics to occupy and educate their children.

2. What steps would you take to ensure that children birth to age five have access to high-quality and affordable early learning programs?

Funding and accountability

3. What steps would you take to stabilize and sustain North Carolina's early education system and child care workforce as we approach the end of the federal child care relief funding?

High school internships will help develop a trained work force. Helping drug addicts experience recovery will help them be productive members of the work force which will help the economy overall, bringing more tax revenue to fund Early Education.

4. What are your views on how to provide all children with access to a sound, basic education beginning in early childhood?

More pre-schools and more teachers.