

May 17, 2023

Statement on Senate Bill 20

On May 16th, legislators in both the House and Senate overrode Governor Cooper's veto of Senate Bill 20, the “Care for Women, Children, and Families Act,” which includes funding for Child Care Subsidy rates. The NC Early Education Coalition supports policies to help children thrive. One of the most fundamental things that children need to thrive is parents and caregivers who are prepared – emotionally, physically, mentally, and financially – to support them.

We appreciate the acknowledgment that this preparation must include expanded access to child care. While this increase in funding for subsidy rates is needed and welcome, it is not enough on its own to address the child care crisis facing families today. North Carolina families, early educators, businesses and communities continue to face a looming funding cliff when federal pandemic relief funding runs out at the end of this year. Linking child care funding to such a politicized and personal issue puts in jeopardy all of the important progress that must still be made.

We will continue to work with state legislators on funding and policies that will support our early education system and help create a better future for everyone in North Carolina.