

## 2024 North Carolina Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Steven Feldman

Congressional District: House of Representatives District 10

Party Affiliation: Libertarian

Current Occupation: Physician

### Questions for 2024 Candidates for State Office in North Carolina

**1. The most rapid period of brain development happens in the first five years of life, laying the foundation for all future learning, health, and success in school and life. What are your views on the needs of young children (prenatal to age 5) and what steps would you take to address these needs?**

Early development is critical, and parents should be empowered to assure their children good health and a rich learning environment. As first steps to address those needs, the Federal government should reduce regulations that stifle job growth and that limit parents' income and the resources parents have to support their children. The Federal government can also reduce regulations that increase the cost of childcare. Much needs to be done at the state level, too.

**2. Every county in North Carolina is considered a "child care desert" with not enough supply to meet the demand. When parents do find child care, the average cost is nearly \$10,000/year, which is higher than the cost of public college tuition. What steps would you take to ensure that families have access to high-quality and affordable early learning programs for their children?**

Everyone wants families to have access to a good learning environment for their children. Reducing government regulations that limit access to affordable care and that increase the costs parents face should be a priority. Increasing access to good paying jobs by reducing government regulations and focusing Federal spending on local infrastructure would increase demand for workers and thereby increase worker pay, improving parents' ability to afford care.

**3. Currently, child care teachers in North Carolina earn an average of \$14/hour, less than most retail or service workers. Since 2021, federally-funded Child Care Compensation Grants have provided higher wages and bonuses to more than 40,000 North Carolina early educators, but that funding has expired. Without additional funding, child care providers have said that they will have to reduce teacher wages, raise parent tuition, or close their programs. 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 Compensation Grant funding?**

Increasing the availability of jobs that creates competition for workers would help increase wages. Reducing Federal regulations that stifle job growth should be a priority.

**4. Working parents depend on child care, and businesses in nearly every sector have identified child care as a critical factor in their workforce challenges. A new study from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation found that insufficient child care is costing North Carolina about \$5.65 billion each year. What are your views on how the issues facing our state's child care system impact the state's economy? What specific steps would you take to ensure that our child care system can keep up with the demand as more working families need child care in North Carolina?**

While reducing Federal regulations is important, much needs to be done at the State level. Reducing state regulations that make it difficult for people to set up small businesses to care for children would make child care more affordable and would greatly increase the pay to childcare workers.

**5. If elected, what would be your top 5 priorities for 2025?**

1. Getting the Federal debt and deficit under control. We must not leave our children a bankrupt country.
2. Bring our troops home to defend our border and stop trying to police the world. Our support for violence in other countries is costly and counterproductive. Everyone wants peace; we should work for peace by being more peaceful.
3. Improving our healthcare system by instituting market forces that will lower prices and improve quality.
4. Solving our border issues by addressing root causes of illegal immigration: defending the border, not policing the world; ending the drug war and sanctions that make life in countries to our south unlivable.
5. Encouraging a more civil culture in our society, beginning with civility and cooperation in our leadership.

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