

COMMUNITIES THRIVE WHEN CHILDREN THRIVE



Dear Parent,

As a parent relying on child care, we want to bring to your attention legislative proposals that could affect you. The North Carolina General Assembly is considering **eliminating the state's early childhood programs**, Smart Start and More at Four. We have included **steps YOU CAN TAKE to make sure these changes do not take place**.

Unfortunately, much of the conversation has turned into **an attack on working parents**. Some have suggested that **parents' decisions to rely on child care are wrong**. They imply that if families made more sacrifices, child care would not be needed. They go so far as to suggest that **women should be home** caring for children and not in the workplace.

Others are saying that children in child care **don't need high quality programs**. They say **families should fend for themselves**.

And for parents trying to support their families and receiving assistance to afford child care, they say that child care subsidy should only be for "desperately poor preschoolers **who lack functioning parents**." (John Locke Foundation)

Our elected officials ran on a promise to create jobs. Will these proposals help you keep your job?

Three Things You Can Do

- ✓ **Call your elected officials.** Tell them that you support early childhood funding and want programs like Smart Start and More at Four. See the other side for a list of your representatives.
- ✓ **Sign the Children's Pledge.** Tell legislators that you believe that is in North Carolina's best interest to maintain investments in the early education system in our state. www.thepetitionsite.com/10/North-Carolina-Children-Pledge/
- ✓ **Join the Facebook Group "We are against cutting Smart Start and More at Four."** To join, just put those words in the Facebook search box, and then select groups on the side of the results. You'll see this one pop up.