
Petition Comments

Increase Subsidy Funds to Offset the Minimum Wage Increase

May 30, 2019



Essex County

"Thank you for your commitment to raising the minimum wage in New Jersey. We ask that you give careful consideration to the employers who want to both pay their staff a livable wage and allow families a fair price for their children's care." – *Kathy Burke, Community Day Nursery, East Orange*

Camden County

"Help us please! We have worked so hard for quality. Our people do need and deserve higher pay. Our parents aren't able to absorb the coming costs!" – *Victoria Caracciolo, St. Cecilia's Little Angels, Merchantville*

"Please consider the impact the minimum wage increase will have on childcare early learning centers. Tuition increases will be forced yet will not cover the enormous expense associated with higher payroll. Small business especially in early childhood education are already financially stressed. I am worried for our future." – *Deborah Zupito, Little Learning Academy, Collingswood*

"The secondary effect of a higher minimum wage is the fact that child care centers will need to raise prices. Families are struggling now to pay, this will make quality care out of reach." – *Kimberly Friddell, IMPACT Child Care, Cherry Hill*

"Please help us continue to do the work we love to do AND be able to support our families." – *Keisha Wright-Daniel, CARE For Me CLC, Merchantville*

"High quality child care should not be a bargaining tool for families. Our children deserve to have a bright future, which begins with a great foundation during the formative years of our youngest learners. Future generations must be able to compete globally, and research shows that from birth to five years of age, our babies are very capable of acquiring and retaining information. Therefore, we must map out a trajectory that is built on intentional planning and developmentally appropriate practices guided by highly qualified early childhood practitioners. How can we help ensure best outcomes for social/emotional development, academic success, and a path leading to productive and contributing members of society? By increasing child care funding, so that families and providers can rest assured that the need will be able to meet the demand of the future growth and development of our children. So please, invest in our most valuable resource--our children and families, and increase child care funding! Thank you in advance." – *Kay Soltero, Pennsauken*

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Gloucester County

“There are already so many centers closing due to lack of funds. While I am fully supportive of an increase of the minimum wage, this field cannot survive without assistance.” – *Leah Walker, Glassboro*

“Support is needed because this increase will need to apply to all staff; those below the increase amount and those who are above the minimum wage to equal and fair. The expense could be devastating to the centers and the families.” – *Debranne Laphan-Quinn, St. John of God Community Services, Westville*

Hudson County

“I can’t wait to increase my staff [wages] because they are hardworking and love training the children, but we need funding to accommodate these mandated raises.” – *Monica Mincy-Thomas, New Life Dream Academy, Jersey City*

Mercer County

“I have been an advocate for children for the past twenty years. Qualified staff are essential to child care for young children in all forms, full-day, before/after school programming and summer child care needs to remain constant for our youngest population of children. Child care not only affords families the peace of mind they need to ensure that their children are cared for by certified/qualified staff but also provides a safe haven for inner city children and families that are struggling to make ends meet and need quality child care programs so parents can work to support their families.” – *MaryAnn DeFrances, Stepping Stones Learning Institute, Trenton*

“So many day cares are being forced to close in our town. Most of our children are subsidized and the families rely on us. Already we can’t keep up on maintenance much less improvements. High quality care does come with high costs. The requirements of licensing are strict. Children do deserve this quality and the parents the comfort of knowing they are getting it, however the people who provide it do as well. It is a difficult but rewarding job. We aren’t flipping burgers and should be compensated accordingly. We are molding minds and lives of future generations. Remember us little people who can’t be replaced by technology. Increase childcare subsidies.” – *Lisa Miletta, Corson Park Day Care, Millville*

Middlesex County

“It is great that minimum wage is going up, but since my employer is non-profit, it will be difficult to cover the wages of workers if there is not enough funding. Please provide additional funding!!! Otherwise organizations like this cannot survive.” – *Shyby Joy, YMCA of MEWSA, Edison*

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Morris County

“We know that the staffing crisis providers continually face is driven by historically low wages. However, the cost of remedying that will drive providers out of business as surely as a shortage of staff because providers do not have the means to fund wage increases. Raising rates to cover that expense is not the solution as rates are already higher than low income families can often pay and even higher income families do without the secure needed child care. Expense management is also not an option as budgets cannot cover what is now required in order to be considered a quality program. Subsidy rates must be increased to help offset this gap or the child care deserts that are emerging and spreading will grow, impacting families, children, communities and our economy.” – *Harriet McCarter, F.M. Kirby Children’s Center of the Madison YMCA, Madison*

“We need to increase the subsidy rate to offset the increase in minimum wage. Early Childhood Education centers serving families that utilize state assistance simply cannot afford to maintain operations without a compatible subsidy increase.” – *Michelle Roers, United Way of Northern New Jersey, Morristown*

Union County

“We have not seen an increase in our budget from the state. We must increase teachers’ salaries to stay competitive with the district. We have not seen an increase in the reimbursement for our After School Programs either. In order to increase wages, we must get an increase in our allocation from the state.” – *Leah Dade, Second Street Youth Center, Plainfield*

Warren County

“Small private preschools and child care centers who put their heart and souls into their jobs everyday WILL NOT survive the wage increase and insane payroll taxes if something is not done. It is the CHILDREN who are nurtured and helped to develop at these centers that will truly be the ones to suffer.” – *Nicole Francis, Mike’s Tikes Preschool and Childcare Center, LLC., Columbia*

Statewide

“On behalf of the Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators, we are deeply concerned that families cannot afford to pay the increased costs for childcare that the new minimum wage demands. Infants depend on secure attachments to learn. Keeping their care environments stable with reliable and knowing educators is necessary to increase and sustain the quality of their days in care; building each child's ability to learn through positive brain development. We urge your increasing our FY 2020 budget with an additional \$19 million more dollars so child care educators can receive a wage that respects the dignity of their work. Support their ability to remain on site providing the stable care that secure attachments and early learning require. Please consider today's infants as our future workforce by resolving to meet their current childcare needs with a more reliable budget so they can develop into citizens capable of sharing our limited resources wisely.” – *Cynthia Soete, Coalition for Infant Toddler Educators (CITE)*