



State Representatives Susan Manchester & Allison Russo

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Lt. Governor Jon Husted
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Director Amy Acton
Ohio Department of Health
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Director Kimberly Hall
Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services
30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

May 11, 2020

Dear Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted, Director Acton, and Director Hall:

Thank you for your leadership during this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the families in our districts and the thousands of Ohioans returning to work over the next few weeks, we urge the Administration to form a workgroup devoted to planning for statewide access to childcare. A workgroup focused on this urgent need for Ohio's working families should draw expertise from childcare professionals, businesses, and medical professionals and balance of timely reopening of childcare programs with public health considerations.

As Ohioans return to work, working parents need immediate access to reliable, safe, and quality childcare. This issue cannot be an afterthought: the reality is that many parents cannot go back to work if they do not have childcare. Working parents should not be expected to simply rely upon the flexibility of employers, especially in circumstances where remote work is not possible or the work site is not safe for children.

We believe Ohio's childcare professionals are the workforce behind the workforce. If provided new guidelines and recommendations, they are extremely capable of implementing health and safety precautions, while also caring for our children. Childcare programs already adhere to strict cleanliness and disinfecting standards and have indicated their willingness to comply with any additional requirements deemed necessary. However, we must prioritize this guidance and ensure these programs have the resources needed in order to reopen safely. Many childcare

programs – both publicly funded and private pay – are already operating on very thin margins. As we make additional safety requirements such as lower class ratios, less interaction between classes, greater use of personal protective equipment, and additional sanitation procedures, we must also provide childcare programs with the reopening resources and guidance they need to ensure a safe and healthy environment.

We stand ready to support any efforts by the Administration to ensure timely access to childcare throughout our great state. Thank you in advance for your serious attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Susan Manchester
State Representative
Ohio House District 84



C. Allison Russo
State Representative
Ohio House District 24