

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: FW: Please invest in our early education workforce

From: Laurie Metcalfe

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Dear Representative Toll and the House Appropriations Committee,

We are working hard to attract and retain qualified early educators. Livable wages and student loan debt is a real struggle for many of us. Many early educators are forced to leave the field because of these issues. I had to leave the field for 7 years so I could afford to support myself and my child. I was only able to return to early education after my child graduated high school and my living expenses decreased. Without investment in our early education workforce, early educators will continue to leave the field because they simply can't afford to stay.

I sincerely ask that you please do everything you can to ensure that Vermont invests in our early education workforce.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,
Laurie Metcalfe

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