



February 11, 2021

The Honorable Ann Pugh
Representative from South Burlington
67 Bayberry Lane
South Burlington, VT 05403

RE: **H.171: An act relating to the governance and financing of Vermont's child care system**

Dear Representative Pugh:

Thank you for your leadership as Chair of the House Committee on Human Services. We hope that you are navigating the COVID-19 pandemic safely and that this letter finds you well.

As you are aware, the Vermont Business Roundtable has been a longstanding champion of public investments in the life of our youngest Vermonters. And at our annual meeting in January, the full membership ratified a statement in support of investments in children ages 0-5 and pledged ourselves to work with Let's Grow Kids to find a sustainable financing source for Vermont's early child care system. A link to that statement is included herein, and I draw your attention to the last bulleted item, which states,

"Finally, [early childhood education] investments and the programs they fund require a governance and accountability system that is embedded with specific performance metrics and timelines to ensure that dedicated investments achieve their intended outcomes. Governance that incorporates meaningful private sector involvement, data-based methodologies, a focus on outcomes, and the discipline to regulate the system is essential to the success of any new implementation strategy."

https://vtroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/1.28.21-Statement-of-Support-for-Investment-in-ECE_FINAL.pdf

As introduced, H.171, Section 14b, Early Care and Education Governance and Administration Advisory Committee membership includes no member of the business community. All 15 seats on this Advisory Committee are assigned to parents or providers, but for one "community member."

Given the very large role that business has played in getting this legislation introduced, and the role that business will be expected to play in designing and passing a sustainable financing model, I respectfully ask that there be multiple seats held for representatives of the state's diverse business community.

We look forward to the opportunity to testify on behalf of our members, and to answer any questions you may have about our request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

s/Lisa Ventriss
President

s/ Foley, Immediate Past Chair
CEO, Foley Services

s/Dimitri Garder, Board Member
CEO, Global-Z

s/Michael Seaver, Past Chair
CEO/Vermont, People's United Bank