

Thank you for all of the hard work that has gone into Act 76! This act is already making a huge difference for our children, families, employees, and community. Act 76 has given programs like ours the confidence to expand. ABC and LOL LLC has increased our enrollment, added two new programs, and employed 15+ more staff because we are optimistic for the future of the early childhood education field. Our work in this field is not done yet but we have never been closer to fully solving Vermont's Child Care crisis than we are today. We believe To provide high-quality child care for all children we need to be able to employ highly qualified educators who are passionate about the field. In order to do this we need to be able to provide a business model that provides competitive wages and benefits for all. We have initiated program-wide raises to support our staff with receiving the competitive salary they deserve. Starting March 1st we will be offering health care for all of our employees as a way to support retention and provide the adequate care that our valued employees deserve. We believe that this will boost morale and create a more rich environment for everyone. Act 76 gives us the ability to better plan for the future. This is an exciting time for childcare programs- both centers and family homes- Throughout Vermont and it is our collective hope that this funding and law leads to a childcare system, that works for everyone. We feel strongly that we need to give Act 76 a chance to take effect - it has only begun to roll out. Please reject the Governor's proposed cuts to funding for child care. Without childcare for all families then caregivers will not be able to be successful individuals in the economic well-being of the state of Vermont.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Taylor Brink & Heather Smires

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