

OACCP SIGN ON LETTER

Sent via Survey Monkey March 25, 2016

Dear Governor Kasich:

As a stakeholder in early care and education system in Ohio, there are some major concerns over the state's current policies in regards to the future of Ohio's children and working families. Ohio has a very robust early care and education system combining public, non-profit and tax paying organizations. **Ohio also has aggressive goals to improve quality in these settings and to have all programs receiving Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) funds minimally quality rated by 2020 and high quality rated by 2025.**

Last June, when you signed the State Biannual Budget, there was much celebrating in the Early Care and Education Community in Ohio with an additional investment of \$115 million for FY 2016 and 2017. Unfortunately, only a fraction was spent on quality child care for Ohio's working families. Although funds were allocated for extending the ceiling for Publicly Funded Child Care from 200% Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) to 300% FPG with entry at 135% FPG, and other minor changes, the bulk of the funds were allocated to ECE half day preschool slots in only 120 school districts and more administrative infrastructures. These funds should not be spent on infrastructure, they should be spent on funds directly supporting children. **Ohio's working families should not have to choose between high quality preschool and child care, they should get both!**

Now, your administration's proposal is to use the majority of the remaining unspent \$40 million of the increase on more ECE preschool slots and *more administrative infrastructure*. This is despite the recommendations of the state's commissioned Ohio Child Care Advisory Council and your own Ohio Early Childhood Advisory Council, who both recommended REAL investment in rural and high quality programs to help meet the State's 2020 and 2025 goals. The latest proposal includes a consolidation of rural rates and a minor raise in rates for three, four and five star rated centers. However, this proposal would eliminate Quality Achievement Awards (QAA) from quality rated programs, **leading to a REAL loss in revenues for a majority of Ohio's quality PFCC providers.**

Governor Kasich, Ohio needs to do better on creating policies that support and encourage tax paying and non-profit organizations to help meet the state's quality goals in 2020 and 2025. Ohio must allow all children and families access to quality early care and education.

NAMES and Organizations Listed Below: