



‘Gotta Have Child Care’ Campaign Highlights Urgent Need for Virginia to Invest in Quality Child Care Services

Richmond, Va. (Dec. 4, 2023) – Elected officials, business executives, economic development leaders, parents, child care providers and community stakeholders have joined forces to publicly launch the **Gotta Have Child Care** campaign focusing on the critical importance of additional investments needed to meet family demand for quality early childhood care and education services.

The campaign is sponsored by the [Virginia Promise Partnership](#), the [Virginia Business Roundtable for Early Education](#) and the [Virginia Early Childhood Foundation](#).

At a kickoff event on Monday, Dec. 4, Senator Louise Lucas (D-District 18) and Delegate Carrie Coyner (R-District 75) shared that quality, affordable child care impacts children, families and communities. Jason El Koubi, President & CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Sean Connaughton, President & CEO of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, noted that long-term investments in child care services are essential so that Virginia’s workforce and economy can continue to grow and thrive. Tomashia Cornitcher, the mother of three children in Alexandria, Va., gave a personal testimony from a parent’s perspective and ended her remarks with a forceful, “This is why we gotta have child care!”

Gotta Have Child Care organizers maintain that without further action from policymakers, 35,600 children could lose child care and 37,300 parents could experience job disruptions.

“Over the last few years, Virginia has made significant progress in expanding child care access and choice. However, temporary federal funding will end in the next seven months and, without further action, tens of thousands of children and families will lose access to child care,” said Kathy Glazer, President of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. “Increased funding, support, and partnerships for quality, affordable child care are critical to supporting school-ready children, work-ready parents, thriving communities and a prosperous economy in the Commonwealth.”

To learn more, visit: www.GottaHaveChildCare.org

Media Contact: Sara Hunt, SaraHuntPR@gmail.com, 804-994-1120