



## **Early Childhood Advocates Applaud Robust Investments Outlined in Governor Youngkin's Building Blocks for Virginia Families Plan**

**Richmond, Va (December 7, 2023)** - Parents, business leaders, child care providers, and community stakeholders representing the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, the Virginia Business Roundtable for Early Education and the Virginia Promise Partnership applauded the bold child care investments outlined in Governor Glenn Youngkin's Building Blocks for Virginia Families plan.

These sponsoring organizations of the 'Gotta Have Child Care' campaign thank the Youngkin Administration for their leadership and commitment to sustaining Virginia's best-in-class public-private parent choice system, and encourage members of the General Assembly to continue investing in high quality early childhood care and education services.

The Building Blocks for Virginia Families plan unveiled this morning includes critical funding needed to sustain child care services for at-risk and low-income families and meet record demand from working families more broadly as temporary federal relief dollars end in the coming year. The plan also includes important provisions to address challenges faced by child care providers, including widespread staffing shortages and high turnover among early educators. Funding outlined under the proposal will enable children to gain the skills they need to succeed, parents to remain in the workforce, and communities and businesses to thrive.

**Kathy Glazer, President of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation** said, "Today's announcement is a remarkable commitment to Virginia's children and families. By sustaining access to quality, affordable early childhood care and education services, these investments will help unlock the potential of all children and keep Virginia on the path to economic success. We look forward to working with the Youngkin Administration and members of the General Assembly who have long championed affordable, accessible child care for Virginia's families."

"The impacts of the child care crisis go far beyond individual children and families, resulting in significant losses in earnings, productivity, and revenue for employers across the state.

Provisions outlined in the Governor’s Building Blocks for Virginia Families will be key to supporting economic growth and ensuring Virginians can remain in the workforce,” said **Mike Chinn, Virginia Business Roundtable for Early Education Chair and Partner, Endicott Capital.**

“I was thrilled to attend today’s rollout of the Governor’s Building Blocks for Virginia Families plan. Too many families across the Commonwealth can’t find or afford quality child care. Early education services enable parents like me to work and provide for our families knowing that our kids are in a safe, supportive environment where they can learn and grow. Funding in the proposal will ensure families can access quality child care that meets their needs, starting with families in greatest need,” said **Tomashia Cornitcher, Virginia Promise Partnership Parent Advisory Vice Chair.**

“As a long-time education champion in Virginia, I am gratified to see early childhood education prioritized in its rightful place by Governor Youngkin and legislative leaders from both sides of the aisle. When we put children and families first, we all win, “ said **Jim Dyke, member Virginia Early Childhood Foundation Board of Directors and former Virginia Secretary of Education.**

Allocating these vital investments would mark an important first step in meeting the child care needs of working families across Virginia. The proposal will serve as a critical baseline for budget negotiations during the upcoming 2024 General Assembly session.

The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, Virginia Business Roundtable for Early Education, and Virginia Promise Partnership look forward to ongoing work with the Youngkin Administration and all members of the General Assembly to strengthen Virginia’s child care system to support school-ready children, work-ready parents, thriving communities, and a strong economy.

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