



# Provider Appreciation Day®

MAY 12, 2023



## PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY®

Template Op-ed

*Use this template opinion editorial to express the importance of Provider Appreciation Day to your community.*

*[CONSIDER BEGINNING WITH A PERSONAL STORY THAT SPEAKS TO HOW OR WHY A PROVIDER HAS MADE AN IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY]*

As a *[JOB TITLE/JOB DESCRIPTION/ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY]*, I see the impact that providers can and do have in *[YOUR STATE OR COMMUNITY]*. But, without more support, they cannot keep doing the incredible work that they do every day.

In our community, like so many across the country, grim trends in child care have only gotten worse since the pandemic began: Program costs have increased, while waiting lists continue to get longer. Child care centers are losing workers and often closing their doors because they cannot compete with the rising wages and benefits offered by large corporations.

*[INSERT EITHER PERSONAL ANECDOTE ABOUT YOUR CHILD CARE PROVIDER, A PROVIDER YOU KNOW IN YOUR COMMUNITY, OR A REFERENCE TO A RECENT NEWS STORY]*

Voters largely support increased funding for child care. Both women overall and strong Republican-leaning voters [say they'd be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports investing in child care](#) to make it more accessible and more affordable. That includes increasing compensation for early childhood educators.

There are 100,000 fewer child care providers across the nation than before the pandemic. Short-staffed child care centers are closing, despite increasing demand from families.

The earliest years are critical – they lay the foundation for the brain and body architecture that will support a child's ability to learn, and for lifelong social, emotional and physical health. This Provider Appreciation Day®, let's show our gratitude for those who support the social, emotional and physical care of our youngest children.

Child care providers are essential – and they have been long before the pandemic. They are the workers that make all work possible. It is so important that our policymakers commit to increasing compensation for the folks who care for and educate our children, who are currently some of the lowest paid but most heavily relied upon professionals in our workforce.

America's early learning system, which was already failing to meet the needs of families and providers before the pandemic, is currently propped up by funds that are set to expire soon. Join us in celebrating Provider Appreciation Day by committing to better fund the child care workforce and finally treating providers like the professionals they are. It's the absolute least we can do.