**Support Employers and Working Parents with More Quality Child Care**

Parents cannot find child care. Employers cannot find workers. It’s a vicious cycle that is dragging down the Texas and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County economies. Fortunately, the Texas Legislature and more than a million Texas voters just approved a powerful new tool for helping cities and counties boost their workforces and economies with more child care.

No parent should pay more than 7% of their household income on child care expenses for one child, according to economists. But in today’s child care market, the reality is quite often much, much more expensive. With child care costs averaging $30 - $75 per child per day, parents must make sacrifices to ensure their children are in safe, nurturing and stimulating environments during the workday.

*Insert testimony of a local parent in the community that must have child care to continue working or going to school (100 – 150 words)*

Parents need affordable child care. That’s why our community must use every tool at our disposal to increase access to quality child care. After action from the Texas Legislature last spring, Texas voters overwhelmingly voted to amend the Texas Constitution to allow cities and counties to cut property taxes for child care providers serving low-income families. Now, \_\_\_\_\_\_ County must act to implement this bipartisan, pro-family, and pro-business tax relief.

Child care providers are small businesses and all businesses in Texas struggle with the high cost of property taxes. However, not all businesses allow other businesses to function. Child care business are the backbone of the Texas economy. No child care, no workforce.

After staffing costs, facilities are the second most expensive part of running a child care center. Property tax relief for child care centers will help centers stay afloat without passing costs on to the working parents they serve. Under the provisions of the new law, (insert city/county) can offer 50%-100% property tax exemptions to licensed child care centers participating in the Texas Workforce’s Commission child care program for working parents.

Qualifying centers will have an opportunity to reallocate resources to higher and retain staff and to enhance the quality of their child care programs. This cost savings plan is one step we can take to help keep our local child care centers open so \_\_\_\_\_ (insert city/county) parents can keep working. Let’s work together to strengthen our economy and keep our child care centers open. Let’s provide property tax relief to child care providers in (insert city/county).