***This sample letter to the editor requires customization. Edit the bold, italicized text below with your own personal experience, and remove this paragraph, before sending to your local newspaper. Also include your contact information. Many newspapers will only print a letter to the editor after calling the author to verify his or her identity and address. Newspapers don’t give out your contact info or address, but they will usually include your name and city if your letter is published.***

Dear [Newspaper Name] Editor,

Quality, affordable, appropriate, and safe childcare is essential to keeping parents in the workforce. But our state is in the midst of a childcare crisis. Parents are struggling to find and afford care, especially in rural areas, and many childcare centers in our state are at risk of shutting down. We need legislative leaders who will properly invest in our childcare system.

***This paragraph can be customized to talk about the need to invest in our childcare system and/or tell your story of struggling to find or afford a childcare spot, or of being a childcare provider in an underfunded system. Facts and stories help tell our future leaders why we urgently need increased childcare funding and shows other parents that they’re not alone. Some sample prompts are below:***

* The average cost of infant care in child care centers in North Carolina is a whopping $12,000 a year. And that’s if parents are lucky enough to find a spot at all. When I was seeking childcare for my kid….
* The childcare funding the North Carolina legislature approved in July 2024 will run out by the end of this year. This means more centers will close, and more parents will be out of luck when looking for care. As a childcare provider/parent, I am concerned because…
* The median wage for childcare teachers in North Carolina in 2023 was just $13.99/hour. I work in childcare and what it means to have such low wages for providers is (ex: high turnover, burnout, staffing problems)…
* The childcare crisis in North Carolina is costing parents, businesses and taxpayers $3.5 billion each year. As a business owner I believe we should fully fund child care because…
* Childcare is a hot-button issue with North Carolina voters; 77% of voters surveyed by the NC Chamber last year said they believe the lack of affordable child care is a serious problem. As a voter, I will be supporting candidates who have a plan to address this in November because…

Childcare providers are the workforce that makes others’ work possible. And working parents have been pushed to their limits. We must elect leaders who will do what is needed for our state’s families and its economy and properly invest in childcare!

Sincerely,

[Your Name, City, Contact information]