CHILD CARE & THE ECONOMY
BENEFITS OF CHILD CARE

• Businesses need child care
• Working parents (and students) need child care
• Kids need high-quality early learning
• Critical racial equity strategy
• Broken market: Small businesses struggling but already too expensive for families
• Regulation not the culprit; national problem
THE COSTS OF (NO) CHILD CARE

* from Chamber of Commerce Report 2017

- WA economy loses $6 billion/yr*
- WA businesses lose $2 billion/yr*
- Parents forgo $14 billion/yr*
- Lost tax revenue $1 billion/yr*
AMY ANDERSON, AWB

“Economic recovery can not happen without access to child care.”

COVID & CHILD CARE

• Essential workers & non-office jobs

• Risk shift: Schools closed/Child cares essential
  ✓ No health insurance
  ✓ Women of color
  ✓ School age & infant blend
  ✓ Reduced ratios & added costs

• 26% of child cares closed; 34% of capacity

• A “shecession”
FAIR START FOR KIDS ACT

REP. TANA SENN & SEN. CLAIRE WILSON
POLICY IN FAIR START: HB 1213 & SB 5237

• Support Workforce and Expand Supply
  – Pay, health care, professional development
  – Capital investments through Early Learning Facilities Fund
  – Technical Assistance for Businesses

• More Affordable for More Families
  – Co-pay reductions
  – Income eligibility expansion (FPL to SMI)

• Dual Language, Trauma Informed, Mental Health Consultation

• Pushes out ECEAP entitlement and more…

• Phased in over time
NOW IS THE TIME!

• Economic recovery—helping businesses and working parents!

• Shoring up the struggling child care industry comprised of diverse, low-income workforce

• Childhood development, especially during these anxious times

• Statewide, bi-partisan attention on this issue
DEDICATED REVENUE NEEDED A MUST

• 1% of state revenue spent on early learning; child care more expensive than college

• Respect the 1,000’s of stakeholders engaged (business, child care, parents, equity groups, unions, House and Senate members all across the state)

• Revenue critical for long-term investment, actual change
  – Fair Start for Kids Act Account
  – Dedicated
  – HB 1496 has been introduced