

# CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL

To Vermont's children, families, economy, and recovery. Now more than ever.

Child care is essential for Vermont families, but even before the pandemic, 3 out of 5 of Vermont's youngest children did not have access to the care they need. COVID-19 has only exacerbated already pressing challenges for families and early childhood educators. Without equitable access to a high-quality and affordable child care system, Vermont cannot fully recover and grow its workforce, support young families, or set its youngest residents up for future success in school, relationships, work, and life.

**H.171**, an act relating to the governance and financing of Vermont's child care system, takes crucial steps this year to move the state toward an equitable child care system that is:

- » **Accessible:** Children from all backgrounds and abilities will have access to high-quality child care when and where they need it.
- » **Affordable:** No family will spend more than 10% of their income on child care.
- » **High-quality:** Every child will be taught by qualified early childhood educators who are fairly compensated and well-supported.
- » **Accountable:** The system will have well-coordinated and transparent governance, administrative, and accountability structures and resources.
- » **Sustainable:** Stable, long-term funding for the system will be secured.



**H.171 passed the House on a vote of 146-1 and passed the Senate on a vote of 30-0.**

The two chambers are working to resolve the small differences between the two versions of the bill.

Contact your legislators to let them know that **H.171 must pass this year** in order to support Vermont families now and set the wheels in motion for long-term, transformative change.

TAKE ACTION NOW at [LetsGrowKidsActionNetwork.org](http://LetsGrowKidsActionNetwork.org)

