



# Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus

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*Learning, connecting, and problem-solving  
together. Our children are counting on us.*

***Advancing a Whole Child Budget Agenda***

*January 29, 2021*

# Welcome!

*Opening comments from our caucus co-chairs,  
Representative Allison Russo and Senator Stephanie Kunze*



**Tracy Nájera,**  
*Executive Director,*  
*Children's Defense Fund-Ohio*



**children's  
defense fund**  
**ohio**



**OHIO  
CHILDREN'S  
BUDGET**  
*2022-2023*

# About the Ohio Children's Budget Coalition (OCBC)

We are a partnership of 19 organizations across the state committed to the health and well-being of children, advocating for the needs of the “whole child” in Ohio’s state policy and budget decisions.

We are advocating for a fair and just children’s agenda that elevates racial equity and builds on previous investments to promote health, nutrition, housing security, quality child care, economic stability, youth justice, quality education, and critical infrastructure, like broadband, to create equitable opportunities for all Ohio children to thrive.

To learn more and access our 16 policy issue briefs, please visit [www.ohiochildrensbudget.org](http://www.ohiochildrensbudget.org)



## Social Emotional, Mental and Behavioral Health Priorities for Children and Families in the Ohio Budget:

- Implement more tools and greater data collection to gauge the mental and behavioral health needs of Ohio children.
- Cultivate greater partnerships between schools and community behavioral health professionals.
- Protect Student Wellness and Success Funding for school districts.
- Elevate access to behavioral and mental health care for children by creating a better workforce development pipeline.



# Lynanne Gutierrez

*Assistant Director & Legal Counsel,  
Groundwork Ohio*



**OHIO  
CHILDREN'S  
BUDGET**  
*2022-2023*

Groundwork Ohio is a committed, nonpartisan public-policy research and advocacy organization formed in 2004 that champions high-quality early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five, that lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids, families and communities.

Groundwork  
OHIO





# OUR POLICY PRIORITIES



## Healthy Development

Children who are born healthy, grow and develop in healthy environments, and have access to quality healthcare services have better physical, emotional, and mental health throughout their lives.



## Quality Early Learning

The early years of development lay the foundation for all learning that happens later in life. When children have access to high-quality learning experiences in the earliest years, they have better long-term health, education, and economic outcomes.



## Empowered Families

Families are the first and most important teachers and caregivers. A family's economic and environment stability plays a critical role in a child's early development. When families have the resources and support to provide adequate care and enrichment during the earliest years, children can grow and thrive.



# Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies

## Extend Postpartum Coverage

1. Maintain and expand the investment in extended postpartum coverage and actively pursue CMS approval of a Section 1115 waiver for continuous 12-month Medicaid eligibility for postpartum women with substance abuse disorders.
2. Expand the scope and investment of the waiver to include 12-month continuous care for care for pregnant women with high-risk pregnancies, chronic conditions, and mental health diagnoses.
3. Monitor federal action that may allow states to provide one year of postpartum coverage under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program without an 1115 demonstration waiver and may provide additional resources to states so that Ohio can act promptly on these pathways to expand coverage.



# Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies

## Empower Families Through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs

1. Preserve the annual state investment of \$39,292,281 to support current operations and and capacity serving children and families across the state in evidence-based home visiting home visiting through the Ohio Department of Health Help Me Grow Program.
2. Expand evidence-based home visiting services to serve more eligible families by increasing increasing the state investment in the Ohio Department of Health Help Me Grow program and program and utilizing state funds more efficiently.
3. Continue to evaluate programs from an equity lens and utilize data to make policy choices choices and investments that eliminate barriers to access and the impacts of COVID-19 based COVID-19 based on race, rural geography and age of the child.



# Stay connected

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# It takes a village

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Will Petrik, Budget Researcher



*Policy Matters Ohio is a nonprofit policy research institute that creates a more vibrant, equitable, sustainable and inclusive Ohio through research, strategic communications, coalition building and policy advocacy.*

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# High quality child care is essential

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- High-quality child care and early education help prepare children for the future.
- All parents deserve to go to work knowing their kids have a safe, nurturing place to go.
- Child care is critical infrastructure for our economy and helps parents stay in the workforce: *the workforce behind the workforce.*

# The child care industry was teetering before COVID-19. The pandemic has had a disastrous effect.

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- Child care providers are struggling to stay afloat.
- A recent national survey found that 81% of child care providers are serving fewer children than before the pandemic; 91% are paying more for cleaning supplies.
- As of August 2020, Ohio's publicly funded child care program served 24,581 fewer children compared to August of 2019.

# This has hurt Ohio's children, families and our economy.

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- Children need social relationships. Children also need high quality early education to enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- According to the National Women's Law Center, more than 2 million women have left the workforce nationwide since the pandemic began last year.
- We cannot restart our economy until we address the child care crisis.

# Before COVID-19, the child care system was fragile and unstable

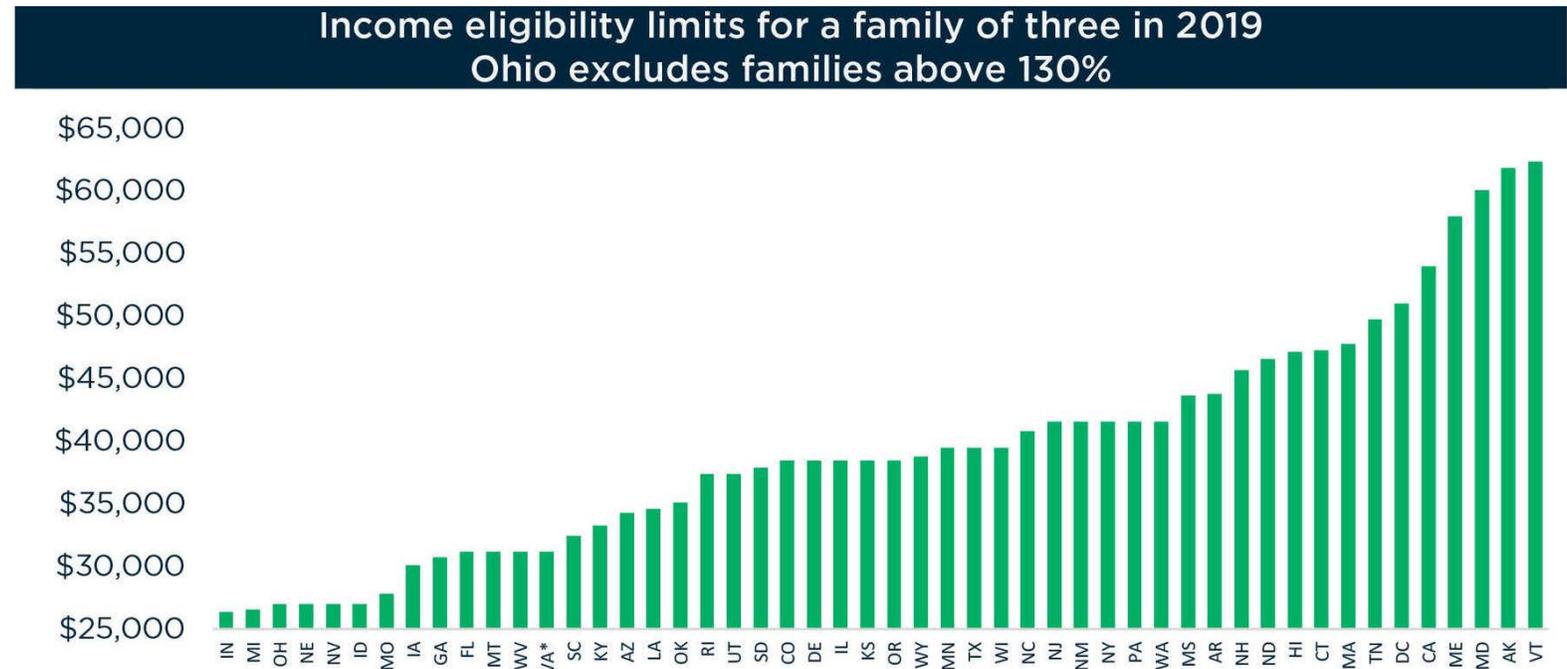
Child care workers and preschool teachers are paid poorly in Ohio		
	Median hourly wage	Median annual salary
Child care workers	\$10.65	\$22,160
Preschool teachers	\$13.06	\$27,170
Kindergarten teachers	NA*	\$57,460
Elementary school teachers	NA*	\$64,470
Civil engineers	\$38.20	\$79,460

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics, "May 2019 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates," <https://bit.ly/3ilb6NF>

\* Occupational Wage Survey data do not give median hourly wage for kindergarten and elementary school teachers because teachers' summer sessions - in which work responsibilities vary across districts - make it difficult to calculate hours worked.

# All parents deserve to go to work knowing their kids have a safe, nurturing place to go.

- Ohio does less than most states to make child care more affordable and accessible for working parents.
- Ohio lawmakers can make child care more affordable by expanding initial eligibility for publicly funded child care from 130% to 200% of the federal poverty level.



Source: Schulman, Karen, "Early Progress: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2019," The National Women's Law Center, 2019, from Table 1a: Income Eligibility Limits for a Family of Three in 2018 and 2019, <https://bit.ly/3grjbym>



# If not us, who? If not now, when?

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- **Access and affordability:** Help parents get back to work by making child care more accessible and affordable. Expand initial eligibility for publicly funded child care from 130% to 200% of the federal poverty level.
- **Sustainability:** Make sure children, their families, and child care staff are safe and healthy. Ensure child care providers can keep their doors open.
- **Quality:** Ensure kids receive the quality care they need to thrive; this includes making sure the child care workforce is paid a living wage.
- **Equity:** Make targeted investments in children and families who have historically been excluded.

# Interested in learning more?

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- Talk with families in your district. Ask them about their struggles and hopes.
- Review the [Expand Access to High Quality Child Care](#) brief on the Ohio Children's Budget Coalition website
- Reach out to me with any questions. My email is [wpetrik@policymattersohio.org](mailto:wpetrik@policymattersohio.org) and my cell is 614 507 8941



**Policy  
Matters  
Ohio**

**THANK YOU**

**Scott DiMauro**  
*President,*  
*Ohio Education Association*



# School Funding Priorities

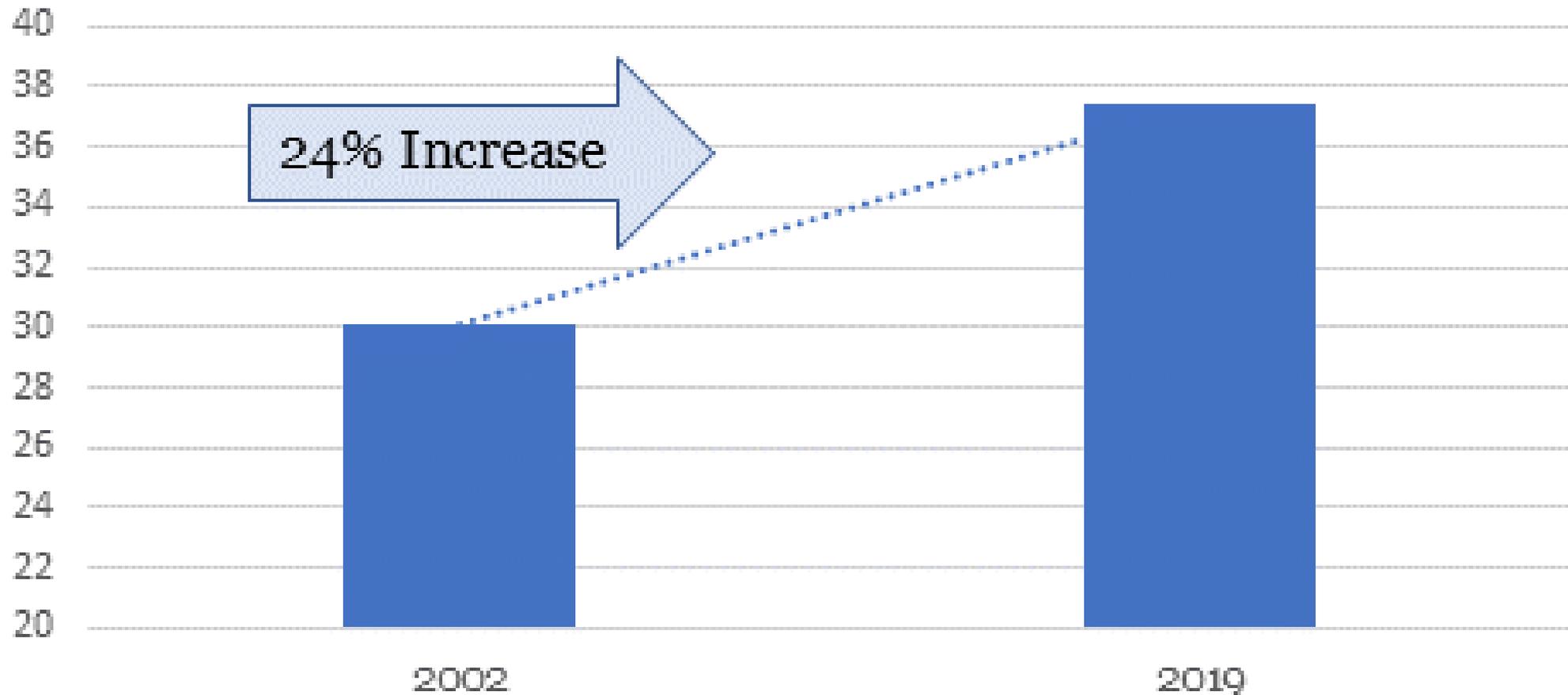
- Ohio currently does not have a functional school funding formula
- Implement the Fair School Funding Plan (HB305/SB376 from 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly) to provide an additional \$1.99B in state aid for public education over the next 6 years
  - Developed by school funding experts, school treasurers, superintendents, board members and educators
  - Bi-partisan support
  - Endorsed by major education organizations
- Plan is student centered, predictable, and reliable

# Fair School Funding Plan

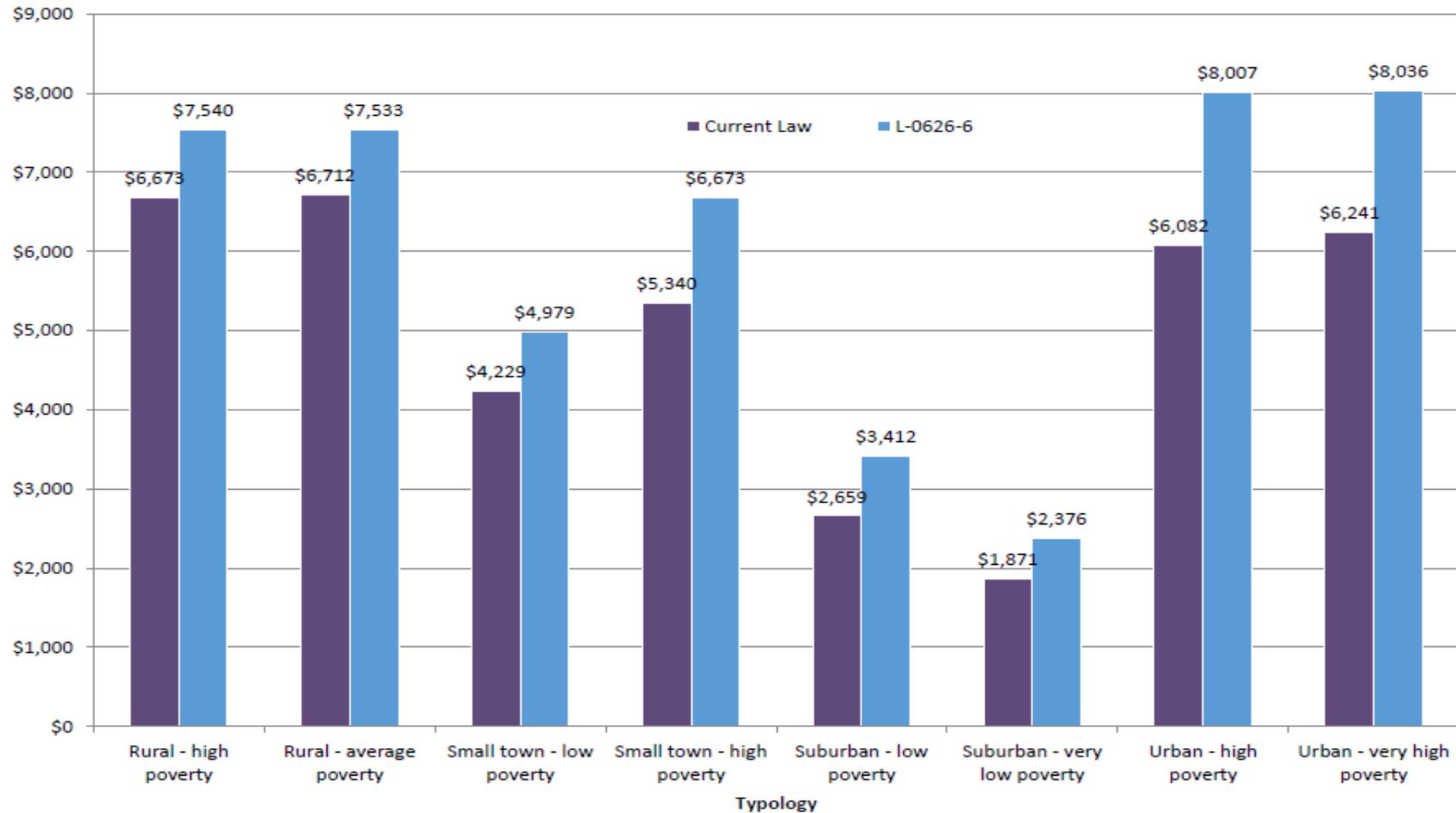
- Reduces need for local levies
- Removes all but 9 districts from the guarantee
- Eliminates Gain Caps
- ~70% of all the new revenue goes to poorest districts
- Direct funding of charters and vouchers rather than deductions from school districts



# Property Tax Rate Change Since *DeRolph IV* (in mills)



### Comparison of Estimated Average Formula Aid Per Pupil by Typology, L-133-0626-6 without Phase-ins to Current Law, FY 2021



# School Funding Priorities

- Fund studies to improve funding and education outcomes for students in poverty, who have special needs, who live in rural districts, and English learners
- Create school funding oversight committee that will make recommendations to policymakers on modifications and adjustments to the formula
- Create a Permanent School Fund for long-term funding stability
- Utilize one-time federal funds to respond to immediate Covid-19 related needs

# Questions & Answers

*Moderated by our caucus co-chair, Representative Allison Russo*

*For legislators and legislative staff, please feel free to unmute yourselves to ask questions or share feedback.*

*For all other participants, please use the chat feature.*

***Thank you for joining today's webinar!***



For more information on upcoming Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus webinars and meetings, please contact Alison Paxson at [apaxson@childrensdefense.org](mailto:apaxson@childrensdefense.org)