



We Care for Kids Advocacy Tool—Letter to the Editor

In Nebraska, state legislators can act to ease the child care crisis for families and providers, but they need to hear from the public about why this issue should be a priority. That's why we need to contact our legislators and let them know how the crisis is impacting all of us.

The best way to make your message heard is to make it personal. Share a story about how early childhood education has impacted you, your family, or your community. Talk about how increased access to affordable, quality child care would help your business grow, your family earn more, or your children succeed. Whatever your story is, it's an important part of solving Nebraska's child care crisis!

Letters to the Editor:

Letters to the editor (LTEs) are a good way to reach both elected officials and the public. Newspapers publish short letters from local residents every day about various issues. In addition to having your work published in a newspaper that your senator may read, your published letter can also be used to share on social media to raise awareness for your friends and family. Here are some tips for drafting your LTE.

- Keep it short! Most publications accept letters that are less than 250 words.
- Focus on one subject. This makes the paper more likely to publish your letter.
- Share your story. You are the expert of your personal experience!
- Letters are more likely to be published if they are in response to a local or national news story. See an article about child care in the paper? Now would be a great time to send in your letter!

Many publications have a letter to the editor form available on their website where you can find the publication's LTE guidelines and submit your letter, or you can mail in a physical copy of your letter.

Example Letter to the Editor

After reading the recent article about yet another child care center closure in Lincoln, I was struck by the magnitude of Nebraska's child care crisis and the lack of action by our leaders.

[Share your story about why early childhood education is important to you.]

I am proud to raise my family here in Nebraska, but families like mine are struggling every day with a lack of affordable, quality child care options. We need our leaders to step up and invest in real solutions to solve this child care crisis—for all of us.