

Majority of New Hampshire Voters Support Government Investments in Early Childhood Education

Data from a new statewide poll shows broad, bipartisan support for increased government investment in early childhood education.

Washington, **D.C.** – A new statewide poll conducted by Republican pollster Alex Lundry on behalf of <u>Centerline Liberties</u> finds that a clear majority of New Hampshire voters believe families with children in America are struggling and see a strong need for further support in early childhood care and education programs and government investments.

The survey results show that 80% of New Hampshire voters support state-level investment in childhood education. Moreover, the data finds that 70% of Republicans support additional government investments in early childhood education. Alex Lundry revealed his insights on these findings at the "Investing in Care, Investing in Growth: A Business-Led Approach to Childcare Solutions" forum at Saint Anselm College this afternoon.

"The New Hampshire data presents incredibly strong numbers with a clear message: registered voters across the political spectrum support significant government investment in early childhood education," **said Alex Lundry, co-founder of Redbud Consulting.** "Recognizing that families are struggling both economically and resourcefully to support their children's learning, policymakers should consider investments that would reduce long-term costs to taxpayers and have significant economic returns."

Topline numbers include:

- Tough times for New Hampshire families.
 - 58% of registered voters believe that most families raising young children in America today are struggling.
 - Only 13% of registered voters are very confident that families in their community have access to the resources and support they need to successfully raise their children.
- Pessimism is grounded in real-world experience with childcare.
 - 75% of registered voters deem childcare in their community expensive, with 44% saying it is very expensive.
 - 40% of registered voters say childcare is difficult to find.

- The cost of raising families has had, and will continue to have, a real impact on family growth in New Hampshire.
 - 20% of registered voters have made at least one of the below very consequential child-rearing decisions due to their concerns about the costs of raising a child.
 - 7% have delayed having children due to cost concerns.
 - 4% are planning to delay having children due to cost concerns.
 - 10% have had fewer children than they wanted due to cost concerns.
 - 7% plan to have fewer children than they want due to cost concerns.
- Government support for families was deemed inadequate.
 - 62% of voters believe the government isn't doing enough to support families with children.
- There is strong support for New Hampshire's childcare scholarship funds.
 - 84% of registered voters support the statewide program, which helps working families access and afford a wide variety of childcare providers, with 47% strongly supporting the program.
- There is huge support for government investments in families.
 - 78% of voters support additional federal investment in early childhood education, and 80% support state-level investment.

"Investing in early childhood education is investing in New Hampshire's future," **said James Dozier, Centerline, Liberties President.** "This is clearly a unifying issue with broad, bipartisan support and policymakers should act in support of a pro-family agenda that strengthens our communities and our economy for generations to come."

"This data backs up a concerning reality that many New Hampshire families are choosing to have fewer children, or none at all, because of the cost and limited availability," said **Rebecca Woitkowski**, **Child and Family Policy Director of New Futures**. "We're reaching a point where New Hampshire has to decide how much it really values families. The cost of care is more than an economic issue — it's about the future of our communities."

"Without the tireless dedication of New Hampshire's childcare workforce, thousands of parents would be unable to enter the workforce and earn a livelihood to support their families," **said Amy Brooks, Executive Director, Early Care & Education Association**. "Those in the childcare workforce deserve wages that reflect the critical services they provide, services that quietly keep our economy growing. This data shows that a majority of New Hampshire voters (54%) believe wages of the childcare workforce simply aren't keeping up."

For more information on the poll, which surveyed more than 400 New Hampshire registered voters, read the <u>memo</u>, <u>toplines</u>, and <u>infographic</u>.

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