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New Poll: Americans Struggling With Childcare/Education Costs, Support Government Action

Survey shows broad support for increased government investment as many Americans reduce family size to offset costs.

Washington, D.C. – A <u>nationwide survey</u> commissioned by Centerline Liberties and conducted by Republican pollster Alex Lundry shows broad agreement that American families are struggling with the costs of childcare and early childhood education, lack adequate government support, and the majority of voters support increased investment to support children and families on the federal and state levels. Concerningly, the poll revealed that some families are even choosing to have fewer children due to rising childcare and education costs. The poll results find that 79% of voters support additional federal investment in early childhood education and 81% support additional state-level investment. This sentiment is true across the political spectrum, with a strong majority of Republicans (74%) supporting additional government investment in early childhood education.

"Rarely do we see such strong, broad-based support for significant government investment in any policy area as indicated by this polling," **said Alex Lundry, co-founder of Redbud Consulting.** "Policymakers should act on this issue for family well-being and America's future competitiveness."

"Childcare and early childhood education systems build the foundation for a thriving society and strong families," **said James Dozier, President of Centerline Liberties.** "Increased government investments on this issue would not just be a win for American families, but a win for policymakers and communities across the board."

"Additional investments from the government for childcare and early childhood education would benefit more than just children and families," said **Will Devine, Centerline Liberties Senior Advisor.** "This issue is a concern for all Americans and if addressed by policymakers, would have a positive impact on the U.S. economy and society as a whole."

Topline numbers include:

Tough times for American families.

- 52% of registered voters believe that most families raising young children in America today are struggling, and only 6% believe they are thriving.
- Only 20% 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.
 - 68% of Americans deem childcare in their community expensive, with 37% saying it is very expensive and only 20% say it is affordable.
 - More than 1 out of 3 voters say it is difficult to find.
- The cost of raising families has and will continue to have a real impact on family growth.
 - 25% of voters have made at least one of the following very consequential child-rearing decisions due to their concerns about the costs of raising a child.
 - 8% have delayed having children due to cost concerns.
 - 8% are planning to delay having children due to cost concerns.
 - 11% have had fewer children than they wanted due to cost concerns.
 - 6% are planning to have fewer children than they wanted due to cost concerns.
- Government support for families is deemed inadequate.
 - o 57% believe the government isn't doing enough to support families with children.
- Huge support for government investments in families.
 - 79% of voters support additional federal investment in early childhood education, and 81% support state-level investment.

For more information on the poll, which surveyed more than 800 registered voters across the U.S., read the <u>memo</u>, <u>toplines</u>, and <u>infographic</u>.

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