North Carolinians see a child care crisis—and it is hurting the state’s economy.

A recent statewide survey of North Carolina voters commissioned by the NC Chamber Foundation shows North Carolinians are experiencing a child care crisis that is hurting families and making it hard for businesses to hire employees and grow. With federal child care stabilization funding ending this year, the crisis is likely to worsen.

Lack of quality, affordable child care is causing parents to leave the workforce or turn down opportunities—exacerbating the state’s labor shortage and threatening business and economic growth.

In every part of North Carolina and across political affiliation, voters want the state to act, including increasing state funding, so more families have access to affordable, quality child care.

North Carolinians clearly see a link between child care and the economy.

- 79% agree that quality, affordable child care is important to strengthen the economy and help workers provide for their families.
- 95% say that quality child care programs help ensure workers are able to go to work reliably.
- 94% say that quality child care programs help children develop important social skills, such as self-confidence, self-discipline, and the ability to work well with others.
- 93% agree that quality child care programs help children have academic success in school.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, North Carolina has a severe worker shortage with 62 available workers for every 100 open jobs.¹

Affordable, quality child care supports working parents on the job, allows businesses to recruit and retain talent, and helps North Carolina’s future workforce develop skills for success in school and life.

Visit ncchamber.com/foundation to learn more about the survey findings.