

WHAT THE CANDIDATES ARE SAYING ABOUT CHILD CARE

What **Democratic Presidential Nominee Kamala Harris** and **Republican Presidential Nominee Donald Trump** have said about child care and early learning while in office:

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE **DONALD TRUMP**

“I have also overseen historic funding increases for high-quality child care, enabling 17 States to serve more children, many of which have reduced or eliminated their waitlists altogether. And I sent the Congress a plan with a vision to further expand access to high-quality childcare and urge you to act immediately.” — [State of the Union, 2020](#)

“My administration is also focused on expanding access to high-quality, affordable childcare. Last year, I was proud to sign into law the largest ever increase in Child Care Development Block Grants to States. The States understand that very well. A lot of Governors come up to me and they thank me for that” — [Remarks at the White House Summit on Child Care and Paid Leave, 2019](#)

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE **KAMALA HARRIS**

“This is a critical issue for almost every family in our country — and the issue, of course, being the need for affordable childcare. And, frankly, in too many places in our country, it’s just too expensive.” — [Remarks by Vice President Harris in Press Call on Affordable Child Care, 2023](#)

“Unfortunately, childcare, again, remains too expensive for too many families in our nation. In some places, childcare can cost almost \$20,000 per child per year. Low-income families often spend one third — one third of their yearly income on childcare, more than they spend on their rent or mortgage. No family should have to choose between high quality care for their child or to give up their career or put food on the table.” — [Remarks by Vice President Harris in Press Call on Affordable Child Care, 2023](#)

SENATOR PETE RICKETTS



Then Governor Ricketts supported and signed state funding that helped working families access child care, including:

Passing a budget which stabilized child care funding and increased incentives for child care quality.

Signing **LB485** which expanded access to Nebraska's Child Care Subsidy Program, allowing providers to serve an additional 7,128 Nebraska children.

Boosting funding for Sixpence—the Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment Fund—and preserved funding for additional Nebraska early childhood programs.

Signing **LB351** which addressed the shortage of quality child care through licensing reform to support expansion of child care businesses.

Signing **LB266** which expanded access to the School Readiness Tax Credit Act to ensure child care providers were eligible for the tax credit.

Securing a Preschool Development Birth through Five grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, bringing in \$8.9 million annually for three years to improve alignment, integration, and quality of child care in the state.

Delivering \$20 million through federal CARES Act funding to support Nebraska children and families with supplemental child care funding, including provider stabilization grants, child care relief fund grants, incentive grants to reopen programs, and support for afterschool and summer learning programs.



Senator Pete Ricketts has supported and led legislation that would reduce the cost of child care for Nebraska's working families, including:

S. 4296: More Opportunities for Moms to Succeed Act, Co-Sponsor

S. 3571: Families Rights and Responsibilities Act, Co-Sponsor

S. 3344: Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act of 2023, Co-Sponsor

S. 1667: America's CHILDREN Act of 2023, Co-Sponsor

S. 4967: The Child Care and Development Block Reauthorization Act 2024, Co-Sponsor

**\$164
MILLION**

Since 2023, **Senator Ricketts has supported Appropriations bills which included more than \$164 million in assistance** to child care and programs for Nebraska families.

SENATOR RICKETTS ON THE NEED TO SUPPORT CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES



In 2023, Senator Ricketts visited the Primrose-Hudl school in Nebraska, commenting on the importance of options for early childhood education. “Options for high-quality early childhood education are critical in keeping Nebraska the best place to live, work, and raise a family.”



In 2022, then-Governor Ricketts proclaimed September 30 as We Care for Kids Day. At the ceremony, he noted the importance of early childhood education. "Quality early childhood education helps Nebraska families work while their infants, toddlers, and preschoolers are being supported for success in school and life by caring and skilled early childhood educators, and quality early childhood education helps children learn and grow, lets families work, and allows Nebraska businesses and our state's economy to thrive."



In 2019, then-Governor Ricketts discussed child care funding received through Federal Preschool Development Birth Through Five grants. “I am confident that this grant will lead to the improvement of Nebraska’s early childhood care and education mixed delivery system serving children from birth through age five. DHHS has a long and successful history of partnering with NDE and other child focused entities for the benefit of Nebraska’s youngest children and their families.”