

# 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](#)*



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## STATE SENATOR TONY VARGAS



**Since 2020, State Senator Tony Vargas has voted for legislation that helped working families access child care including:**

**LB856**, which allows child care programs to receive subsidy reimbursements for children under the direct care of their own parents who are employed by the program.

**LB857**, which offers services to mothers receiving Medicaid coverage.

**LB874**, which simplifies licensing requirements for child care facilities.



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

**LB1206**, which requires reporting to the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System, to help the state government get a better picture of child care workforce needs

**LB957**, which provides for early childhood aid under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act

**LB1324**, which allowed for adoption of the Child Tax Credit Act

**LR251**, which approved a study to explore the development of an apprenticeship program for early childhood education

## SENATOR VARGAS ON THE NEED TO SUPPORT CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES



In 2023, Senator Vargas discussed inflation and the rising cost of child care, criticizing his opponent for disfunction in Congress. “I see that Don Bacon is continuing to enable the dysfunction and ineffectiveness in Congress. People are trying to figure out how to pay for their child care and actually have savings in their account and hopefully have some semblance of retirement in their life.”



In 2021, Senator Vargas supported increasing the eligibility limit of the Child Care Subsidy program, noting: “Many working families are not in a position where we can voluntarily choose to have a parent leave the workplace to stay home with the kids. Nebraska has an opportunity to make sure that we’re getting back in competition with states like Colorado and Kansas, both of which have adopted the 185-percent threshold.”



In 2021, Senator Vargas introduced legislation to increase taxes on the wealthiest Nebraskans to support grants for early childhood education, noting that the current child care workforce does not meet the state’s need. “We don't have the workforce to currently meet our needs. We don't have the funding to actually make this early ed a sustainable place. About a fifth of people's income specifically for working class families is going to early education. We have to figure out a way to invest in this space, or else we're making it harder for people to enter the workforce, continue their education, so we can fill these much needed jobs we have all across the country.”