



February 2, 2026

Dear Members of the Tennessee General Assembly,

On behalf of Chambers of Commerce and business organizations across Tennessee, we write to express our strong support for a targeted, practical package of child care solutions that will strengthen our state’s workforce and support continued economic growth.

Employers in every region of Tennessee—large and small, urban and rural—are experiencing the same challenge: working parents cannot participate fully in the labor force without access to affordable, reliable child care. This is not only a family issue; it is also a workforce and economic competitiveness issue for our state. When child care breaks down, businesses lose productivity, face higher turnover, and struggle to fill open positions.

The three bills in the 2026 Child Care Solutions Package take a fiscally responsible, market-friendly approach that respects the role of the private sector in addressing this challenge. Together, they use existing or dedicated funding sources, avoid new mandates on employers, mitigate regulatory impediments, and focus on stabilizing the child care supply that working families and employers depend on.

Specifically, this package includes:

- **SB 1921 / HB 2358 (Massey / Hawk):** Restores access to child care assistance for eligible working families by leveraging existing federal TANF reserves.

- **SB 2062/ HB 1979 (Watson / White):** Creates innovative, time-limited pilots that support the child care workforce, expand employer-supported child care options, and helps middle-income families remain attached to the workforce.
- **SB 1683 / HB 1965 (Haile / Farmer):** Removes a narrow legal barrier that prevents employers, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations from hosting licensed child care providers, while preserving all safety and accountability standards.

Data from Tennessee employers and families make clear that child care challenges are constraining workforce participation today—and will limit the workforce of tomorrow if left unaddressed. Strategic investments in child care are investments in employee retention, business growth, and long-term economic development.

We respectfully urge you to support these three bills and to view child care as essential economic infrastructure for Tennessee. Doing so will help ensure our state remains a place where businesses can grow and families can work.

Sincerely,

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Chamber of Commerce

Miles Burdine
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