**Sample Letter to the Editor**

*This template is offered as a guide to writing a Letter to the Editor about issues impacting young children and families. Be sure to personalize it by including your own story and experience. Check your local paper’s letter submission guidelines for word limits – most are only 200-300 words! If you would like help writing or submitting an LTE or if you are interested in submitting an Op-Ed to your local paper, please contact Elaine Zukerman at* *elainez@ncearlyeducationcoalition.org**.*

***Items that are highlighted are where you should add in your own information and must be changed.***

Of all the issues getting attention during this election cycle, the science tells us what must rise to the top. The greatest opportunity to influence a child’s success begins in early childhood, when our brains grow faster than any later point in life. We must make the potential of every child a top priority and call on candidates for every office to do the same.

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on many of the support systems for our youngest children and their families and has exacerbated existing challenges for far too many people. Elected officials must strengthen our early childhood system infrastructure and make sure that children and families have access to policies, programs, and budgets that support their healthy development, early learning, and future success in school and in life.

Policymakers elected this November will make critical decisions that impact families now and in the future. As a [INSERT YOUR ROLE, ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERTISE, OR PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ISSUE], I am calling on 2020 candidates to share their plans to address the big challenges that face our state’s youngest citizens, including [access to quality, affordable child care, paid leave, and health care] [OR INSERT OTHER POLICY PRIORITIES THAT MATTER MOST TO YOU]. By doing so, they can ensure that all children have what they need to thrive and set our state on the path to a strong future.