



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*COLUMBUS, OHIO – The below statement can be attributed to Ohio Chamber President & CEO Steve Stivers following Gov. Mike DeWine’s 2024 State of the State address.*

“Access to and affordability of childcare are the single biggest barriers to Ohioans either joining or returning to our workforce. Thankfully, Gov. DeWine understands the scope of this problem, and we applaud his leadership and continued efforts to both expand the eligibility status of working families and grow the number of available childcare options throughout the state. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce strongly supports many of the initiatives that the Governor shared today, including his calls to create the Childcare Choice Voucher Program, which will accommodate 8,000 more kids in working families, and to reallocate \$85 million in federal funds to help our childcare provider community grow their operations and serve more Ohio families. These two proposals in particular will help to bolster Ohio’s workforce, which is the number one challenge that we hear about from our members statewide. For this reason, we urge the Ohio General Assembly to quickly enact these childcare initiatives as outlined by Gov. DeWine.”

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