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Raising Wisconsin Praises Governor’s Spotlight on Child Care and Families in Executive Budget

MADISON, WIS. – Raising Wisconsin appreciates Gov. Tony Evers’ continued commitment to young children and families by proposing significant investments into child care in the executive budget announced this week.

Evers’ proposed state investment into child care, including more than \$480 million to fund what is commonly known as the Child Care Counts program, is essential to ensure early childhood educators and child care programs can remain open, retain staff, and serve their communities.

“We are excited to see this proposal move forward,” said Tim Size, executive director of Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, a member of the Raising Wisconsin initiative. “Investment in child care continues to be as important as ever. We know when the early childhood workforce and child care programs are supported, entire communities are healthier for it. We’re hopeful this will receive significant bipartisan support.”

Raising Wisconsin, a statewide campaign powered by a broad multi-sector coalition, has been advocating for significant state general purpose revenue directly into the child care sector as part of its focus and policy priorities. So far, hundreds of advocates, including parents, have signed on to petitions or sent letters to their state legislators urging support for at least a \$480 million investment.

“We look forward to working with the Governor, state Legislature, and child care advocates from across the state as the budget process continues,” said Dana Schmock, Raising Wisconsin coordinator.

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Raising Wisconsin is a multi-sector initiative that brings together child care professionals, families, business leaders, economic officials, and community leaders to advance support for a significant investment in child care. For more information on Raising Wisconsin, visit www.raisingwisconsin.org.