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Child Care Coalition Tackling Affordability, Accessibility *Elevating Business to Solve our Child Care Crisis*

Lansing, Michigan – The Grand Rapids Chamber has pulled together key leaders in the child care space to tackle Michigan’s child care crisis.

Our coalition’s purpose is child care affordability that leads to quality, workforce development advancement, providing a path to prosperity that impacts poverty cycles, and garners business community support.

Coalition partners are dedicated to solving the issues of affordability and accessibility and have worked together to focus on a tri-share program proposal. This pilot will seek to bring in business to alleviate the cost to families.

“Child care affordability disconnects employers from potential employees,” said Representative Greg VanWoekrom. “It is time to try different approaches that will help people enter the workforce and in many cases break the cycle of poverty. Establishing a tri-share model that engages the private, personal and public, will assist with the cost and drive quality through accountability.”

We applaud Governor Gretchen Whitmer for highlighting the need for expanded eligibility from 130% to 150% FPL for child care in her State of the State. At a time when talent is top of mind for businesses across our state, it is necessary for them to lean in and be a part of the solution. We look forward to working closely with the Governor, her staff, the legislature, and state departments to work towards a solution that breaks down this major barrier to employment.

“The tri-share model is an innovative way to solve our child care crisis,” said Ken Sikkema, former Senate Majority Leader and now with Public Sector Consultants. “This coalition is centered around finding a bi-partisan solution while lifting up public-private partnerships. We are encouraged by Governor Whitmer’s remarks and are looking forward to a productive 2020.”

Coalition partners include:

- Grand Rapids Chamber
- Small Business Association of Michigan
- Talent 2025
- Michigan Chamber
- Mainstreet Legislative Consultants
- Ken Sikkema, Former Senate Majority Leader
- Michigan’s Children
- Michigan League for Public Policy
- Senator Curt VanderWall
- Representative Greg VanWoerkom
- Representative Jack O’Malley
- Representative Michele Hoitenga