



January 2, 2025

The Honorable Louise L. Lucas, Chair
Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations
General Assembly Building, 13th Floor
201 N. 9th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Luke Torian, Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
General Assembly Building, 12th Floor
201 N. 9th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Chair Lucas and Chair Torian,

On behalf of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, I wish to express our support for the amendments to workforce development and child care funding proposed to the Biennial Budget by the Governor.

Smart investments in workforce development ensure that the Commonwealth has a competitive workforce well suited to the changing needs of the stateside economy. The proposed appropriations to the College and Career Ready Virginia Fund and the Workforce Credential Grant program will help equip students and workers with essential skills and credentials that will allow them to succeed in high-demand jobs, both today and in the future. The appropriations for nursing recruitment and training will help address Virginia's shortage of nurses, which is particularly acute in the rural regions of the Commonwealth.

Additionally, the proposed budget amendments regarding child care would be a positive step towards addressing the shortage of slots in quality, affordable child care facilities. Providing competitive grants to help local child care partners retrofit or renovate unused spaces would help maximize existing infrastructure and reduce the number of "child care deserts" across the Commonwealth.

We urge you to support these proposed Budget amendments in the upcoming General Assembly session, and we appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO