State of North Carolina

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

November 18, 2026

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 42

AMENDING AND EXTENDING THE NORTH CAROLINA TASK FORCE ON CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2025, Governor Stein issued Executive Order No. 10, 39 N.C. Reg. 1345-1348 (Apr. 15, 2025) to examine opportunities, barriers, and policy solutions to expand the supply of accessible, affordable, high-quality child care and early education options for working families with young children in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 10, created the North Carolina Task Force on Child Care and Early Education ("Task Force"); and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 10 recognized that access to high-quality child care and early education impacts early-childhood development, supports overall child and family well-being, and facilitates parent and caregiver participation in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has already submitted preliminary reports describing Task Force activities and recommendations to the Office of the Governor by June 30, 2025 and December 31, 2025, and its recommendation to set a statewide subsidy reimbursement rate floor was enacted into law by the North Carolina General Assembly in Session Law 2026-41; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force's work is ongoing; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 10 is set to expire March 17, 2027, and pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-16.2, the duration of this Task Force must be extended to continue its important work; and

WHEREAS, changes to the structure of the Task Force can help optimize its work; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article III of the North Carolina Constitution and N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 143A-4 and 143B-4, the Governor is the chief executive officer of the state and is responsible for formulating and administering the policies of the executive branch of state government; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat.§ 147-12, the Governor has the authority and the duty to supervise the official conduct of all executive and ministerial officers.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in the undersigned as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

Section 1. Extension.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-16.2, Section 1 of Executive Order No. 10 is extended as modified below.

Section 2. Membership.

The Task Force shall be composed of up to thirty (30) but no less than twenty-six (26) members appointed by the Governor. Members should represent the geographic, professional, and demographic diversity of North Carolina. Task Force members shall serve through the end of the Task Force. Vacancies shall be filled by the Governor and members appointed to fill vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. Task Force members serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall choose the chair and/or co-chairs from among the members.

Members shall include representatives from the following entities:

1. Lieutenant Governor;
2. North Carolina Department of Commerce;
3. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services;
4. North Carolina Department of Administration;
5. North Carolina Office of State Human Resources;
6. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction;
7. North Carolina Community College System;
8. North Carolina General Assembly;
9. Child Care Commission;
10. NC Chamber;
11. North Carolina Partnership for Children;
12. Child Care Resource and Referral Network;
13. NC Licensed Child Care Association;
14. Employers;
15. Parent/Caregiver Currently Navigating the Child Care System;
16. Child Care and Early Education Advocacy Organizations;
17. Invest Early NC Representative;
18. Head Start Representative;
19. Family Child Care Home Representative; and
20. National Child Care and Early Education Advisory Organization.

The Task Force may establish sub-committees or work groups as necessary to carry out the Task Force's duties.

Section 3. Duties.

The Task Force shall have the following responsibilities:

a. Examine the role of financing in North Carolina's early childhood education system, including strengths and gaps in the current funding model and system infrastructure.
b. Review and evaluate policy solutions that strengthen the supply of accessible, affordable, safe, and high-quality child care and early education by reviewing and establishing strategies to recruit and retain a strong child care and early education workforce, expand child care supply for the public sector workforce, and maximize compensation, opportunities, and additional supports for early childhood education providers and teachers.
c. Identify opportunities to maximize the impact of existing funding and develop recommendations to direct new public and private investment towards gaps in system infrastructure, especially engaging with the business community.
d. Submit a report describing Task Force activities and recommendations from the 2027 year to the Office of the Governor by December 15, 2027.
e. Provide advice and guidance on any other matter the Governor refers to the Task Force.

Section 4. Meetings.

The Task Force shall meet as a body four times in the 2027 calendar year, and at other times at the call of the Co-Chairs or the Governor. The Task Force may conduct meetings using electronic conferencing or other electronic means. The Committee's meetings shall be governed by the North Carolina Open Meetings Act, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.9, *et seq.*

A simple majority of the Task Force members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting the business of the Task Force.

Section 5. Administration.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce shall serve as staff and administrative support services for the Task Force.

Members shall serve without compensation but may receive necessary travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with State law and policies and regulations of the Office of State Budget and Management.

Section 6. Effect and Duration.

This Executive Order is effective immediately. This Executive Order shall supersede any prior conflicting executive order, including Executive Order No. 10. It shall remain in effect until December 31, 2027, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-16.2, or until rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this 18th day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-six.

Josh Stein
Governor

ATTEST:

Timothy L. Crowley
Chief of Staff, Secretary of State