

# TAKE CARE

North Carolina's child care crisis  
affects everyone.



## Background

Our nation relies on quality child care to support children's healthy development and learning, allow parents to work, and keep businesses running. Yet, child care is in crisis—one that has been decades in the making and was exacerbated by the pandemic.

While child care is foundational to our state and country's wellbeing, it is built on a flawed and unsustainable funding model. Parents cannot afford to pay more. Providers and teachers can't earn enough to make a living. Government and private investment are woefully inadequate. As a result, teachers cannot afford to stay in the profession and are leaving for jobs at convenience stores and gas stations that pay more, child care classrooms struggle to stay open, and employers are losing workers.

This hurts everyone—children, families, child care teachers and providers, businesses, and our economy. The end of emergency funding to help stabilize child care has further worsened the crisis.

Take Care is intended to spark discussion and spur action to solve the crisis. Through the voices and stories of North Carolina families, child care teachers, businesses, and community leaders, Take Care provides a firsthand account of how this crisis is impacting all of us, how communities are trying to address the crisis, and what is at stake if we don't create lasting solutions.

## Details

Take Care is 21 minutes and was created from more than 8 hours of video interviews conducted from November, 2023 through April, 2024. The producers crossed the state with a focus on Wilmington, Rocky Mount, and Clay County.

Take Care was produced by Neimand Collaborative and SeeBoundless with funding from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

## Format and Distribution

Take Care is available online at [TakeCareNC.com](https://TakeCareNC.com). We encourage organizations to host community screenings of Take Care. A toolkit is available at [takecarenc.com](https://takecarenc.com).

## Featuring

**Carolyn Slade**  
Director, St Stephen's  
Loving Daycare  
Center

**David Farris**  
President & CEO, Rocky  
Mount Area Chamber of  
Commerce

**Deidre McMahon**  
Interim Executive  
Director, Southwestern  
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**Erin Leford**  
Physical Therapist, Clay  
County Schools

**Gabriella Kira McClure**  
Teacher, Quality  
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Northchase

**Gary Boettcher, Ph.D.**  
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**Haven Phillips**  
Child Protective  
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**John C. Moore**  
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Early Childhood  
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Human Resource  
Director, Cummins  
Rocky Mount Engine  
Plant

**Rob Zapple**  
Commissioner, New  
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**Sarah Prezioso**  
Professor and  
Department Chair  
of Public Services,  
Nash Community  
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**Tamika Bethea**  
Supply Quality  
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Technician, Cummins  
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**Todd Goins**  
Director of Social  
Services, Clay County  
Department of Social  
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**Yousry Sayed**  
President & CEO,  
Quality Chemical Labs

Take Care looks at the **child care crisis in North Carolina**,  
how it affects everyone, and what's at stake if we don't fix it.

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