

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

VETO MESSAGE

**STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE LINE ITEM VETO
OF SECTION 751.10 OF AMENDED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 169 ON DELAYING
QUALITY STANDARDS FOR CHILD CARE**

December 23, 2021

Pursuant to Article II, Section 16, of the Ohio Constitution, which states that the Governor may disapprove of any item in a bill appropriating money, I hereby disapprove of the following item in Amended Substitute House Bill 169 and set forth the following reasons for so doing as it is not in the best interest of Ohioans. The text I disapprove of is identified by page number, section number and is boxed with notation the item is disapproved.

Item Number 1

On page 22, delete the following boxed text beginning with “Section 751.10...” and ending with “...December 31, 2022.”

DELAYING QUALITY STANDARDS FOR CHILD CARE

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) is Ohio’s quality rating and improvement system for publicly funded child care. It maintains standards to ensure all children, no matter their circumstances, have access to quality early and school-age care that exceed minimum licensing, health, and safety regulations. Quality child care has proven to be effective and has a positive impact on kindergarten readiness and 3rd grade reading proficiency, both indicators of future success.

The SUTQ requirements were originally passed in 2014 by the 129th General Assembly. Most recently, House Bill 110 of the 134th General Assembly established the SUTQ Study Committee. As the Study Committee continues to meet over the next year, I ask committee members to explore ways in which SUTQ can be improved so our children receive the quality care they deserve.

Furthermore, there is merit in exploring immediate opportunities to reduce the bureaucracy and any cumbersome requirements associated with SUTQ, in order to better assist child care programs in becoming rated and with maintaining existing ratings. Therefore, I am instructing the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to immediately take steps to reduce program bureaucracy and to work with the child care community to make improvements that do not require legislative action.

It is for these reasons that I find suspension of the Step Up To Quality program to not be in the best interest of the public, and therefore am vetoing Section 751.10 of Amended Substitute House Bill 169.

For these reasons, this veto is in the public interest.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed at the Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden, Franklin County, Ohio this 23rd day of December, Two Thousand Twenty-One

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine, Governor

This will acknowledge the receipt of a copy of this veto message of Amended Substitute House Bill 169 that was disapproved by Governor Mike DeWine on December 23, 2021.

Name and Title of Officer

Date and Time of Receipt