[Date]

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Office Address of Elected Official

City, State, Zip Code

Dear Representative/Senator/ Commissioner/ Council Member \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

As a constituent of Forsyth County, I am writing to urge you to establish a Community Early Childhood Education Task Force to develop both a near-term and long-term plan for increasing the availability of high-quality Pre-K programs in Forsyth County.

All children have the right to equitable learning opportunities that help them achieve their full potential in school, work, and life. Unfortunately, half of all children entering school in Forsyth County are at risk of falling behind their peers in reading. And by third-grade, nearly two-thirds of children of color are not reading at grade level. Investing in high-quality Pre-K is a means of advancing social and racial equity in our educational system and enhancing the well-being and success of our increasingly diverse community. Numerous longitudinal studies have demonstrated that high-quality Pre-K programs prepare children for a positive school experience, reduce achievement gaps, and provide long-lasting benefits that continue into adulthood.

However, only a third of the 4,500 four-year-olds in Forsyth County are currently enrolled in publicly-funded, quality Pre-K programs that are constituted to serve children in low-income households. A third more are eligible for these programs, but are unable to participate due to the lack of local, state and federal funding. In fact, families in our county from across the income spectrum struggle to find and pay for Pre-K.

This situation is not acceptable for our children, their parents, and the future economic vitality of our community. Therefore, I urge you to establish a Community Early Childhood Education Task Force to develop an action plan for making high-quality Pre-K available and affordable for all families in Forsyth County.

Sincerely,

(Your Signature)

Your Name

Your Title

Your Address

Your City, State, Zip

Your Phone Number