

President

Jason D. Bellows
Lancaster County

President-Elect

Ann H. Mallek
Albemarle County

First Vice President

Ruth Larson
James City County

Second Vice President

William M. McCarty
Isle of Wight County

Secretary-Treasurer

Donald L. Hart, Jr.
Accomack County

Immediate Past President

Meg Bohmke
Stafford County

Executive Director

Dean A. Lynch, CAE

General Counsel

Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE

September 27, 2023

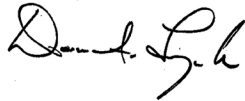
Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education
Members

P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Members of the Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education,

Congratulations on your appointment! Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) appreciates your work on Virginia's early childhood care and education financing recommendations for the General Assembly. We're here to assist and emphasize the urgent need for accessible childcare options and support for providers. While federal COVID relief helped, these funds are expiring, risking closures and workforce challenges. We support initiatives like the Virginia Preschool Initiative, Head Start, and increased funding for programs like the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). Local flexibility is crucial. Supervisor Belinda Astrop of Greensville County represents local governments on the Commission. Thank you for your service in building a strong state-local partnership for early childhood care and education in Virginia.

Sincerely,



Dean A. Lynch, CAE
Executive Director
Virginia Association of Counties

Cc: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Aimee Guidera, Secretary of Education
Members, VACo Board of Directors