



February 8, 2021

The Honorable Mike DeWine:  
Governor – State of Ohio

Dear Governor DeWine:

We are writing to you on a matter of great and timely importance to our children and families – the Covid-19 vaccination priority for preschool teachers. As parents of children who attend the Universal Pre-kindergarten program in Cuyahoga County, we entrust our children to these essential providers, confident of their ability to care for our children. We have watched the risks they take to do this, and their unwavering commitment despite those risks.

We rely on our high-quality childcare and preschool providers to help our children grow and to be ready for Kindergarten. We also rely on their care so that we, as parents, may attend school or work and provide for our families. Many of our families have been personally affected as the centers we have chosen have had to make the difficult decision to shut down, often for weeks at a time, due to Covid-19 exposures and related illnesses. It is important to us that the places we send our children are high-quality – but we also very much need for them to be predictably available and open. Preschool is essential and necessary for both children and families.

We are parent leaders in Cuyahoga County's Universal Prekindergarten Program, but we speak for all parents of young children who depend on stable childcare and preschool options. We support your administration's commitment to doing what is necessary to get all school age children safely back in the classroom. Please provide the same provision of protection to our hard-working and essential preschool teachers as has been provided to K-12 teachers.

Please consider giving preschool teachers the next soonest possible priority access to vaccination.

Thank you for your stated and demonstrated commitment to children and families.

Sincerely,

**Members of the UPK Parent Advisory Committee**

Emily Christescu  
Parent of Ruby, age 5

Erica Battaglia  
Parent of Audrey, age 4

Nicole Lesnick  
Parent of Blaise, age 5

Catherine Covarrubias  
Parent of Peter, age 4

Shonta Kennedy  
Parent of a UPK child, age 3

Ted Barnes  
Parents of Winnie, age 4