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For Immediate Release

## **Kids Forward Applauds the Governor's Recommendations for Improving Access to Early Education**

The following is a statement from Michele Mackey, Chief Executive Officer of Kids Forward, regarding Governor Evers' budget proposals for increasing investments in early childhood education:

Kids Forward applauds Governor Evers' plans to make critically important investments in early education for children. A growing shortage in access to child care is holding back the brain development of Wisconsin children and impedes the state's economic recovery by preventing parents from participating in the workforce. Improving access to high quality early childhood education is one of the most cost-effective investments Wisconsin can make.

The events of 2020 have made the importance of investing in early education more obvious than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic shined a light on the fact that child care providers are an essential component of our state's economy. In addition, increased awareness of our nation's severe racial disparities has boosted interest in combating long standing inequities. Numerous studies have concluded that high quality early education is one of the most effective ways to counter the racial disparities that are holding back people of color and our nation as a whole.

The governor's early education proposals will improve the well-being of Wisconsin's young children, reduce racial disparities, help parents participate in the workforce, and boost our state's long-term prosperity.

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### **About Kids Forward**

Kids Forward advocates for effective, long-lasting solutions that break down barriers to success for children and families in Wisconsin. Using research and a community-informed approach, Kids Forward works to help every kid, every family, and every community thrive.

