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LETTER: Childcare legislation would help residents

As a pastor and member of Shepherding the Next Generation, I see firsthand how parents in our congregation work with their children to become successful and involved members of our community.

But parents cannot do it alone.

Early child-care centers play a critical role in supporting families.

Research shows that high-quality child care can help engage parents as their children's teachers and help kids get the best start in life.

For example, a recent study of more than 200 children found that children in high-quality child-care had more positive parent-child relationships, and their parents reported fewer child behavior problems.

An earlier study of more than 1,300 children found that children in higher-quality child care were better prepared for school at age four, and at age 15, they were still performing slightly above their peers.

In Colorado, the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit (CCTC) brings in millions of dollars each year for early education.

This is a unique public-private partnership that stewards local resources to help children and their families during the most critical years of learning.

This year, I call on our state legislators to support renewal of the CCTC to ensure Colorado's children get a strong start and, ultimately, are prepared to raise strong families of their own.

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