

TO: All Interested Parties
FROM: Hart Research Associates
DATE: April 18, 2012
RE: Vermonters' Attitudes Toward Collective Bargaining For Early Childhood Educators

On behalf of the AFT and United Professions Vermont, Hart Research Associates conducted a telephone survey among 604 registered voters in Vermont from December 16 to 18, 2011. The overall margin of error for this survey is ±4.1 percentage points and is larger among subgroups. The full text of key questions follows below.

I am going to mention a few goals that some people have for issues that the state government might address. For each goal I mention, please tell me whether it is very important, fairly important, just somewhat important, or not important to you personally.

	Very Important	Fairly Important	Just Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not Sure
Making sure that working people in Vermont can earn a decent standard of living	83	9	6	1	1
Making sure that all Vermont children have access to high-quality early childhood education and care.....	74	9	13	4	-

The Vermont state legislature is currently considering a bill to allow child care workers who work in home- and family-based daycare programs to engage in collective bargaining with the state on issues that the state controls, such as child care subsidies and professional development. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this bill to allow child care workers to engage in collective bargaining with the state?

Favor	58
Strongly favor	18
Somewhat favor.....	40
Oppose	32
Somewhat oppose.....	17
Strongly oppose.....	15
Not sure	10

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Voters' Support for Allowing Early Childhood Educators to Engage in Collective Bargaining with the State – by Key Demographics

	<u>Total Favor</u> %	<u>Total Oppose</u> %	<u>Differential</u> <u>(Favor - Oppose)</u> ±
All Vermonters	58	32	+26
Men	56	37	+19
Women	59	27	+32
Age 18 to 54	63	25	+38
Age 55 and over	52	39	+13
Non-college grads	56	34	+22
College grads	60	31	+29
Union households	59	36	+23
Nonunion households	57	31	+26
Less than \$50,000	61	28	+33
\$50,000 to \$75,000	62	29	+33
More than \$75,000	52	43	+9
Northern counties	51	41	+10
Central counties	56	32	+24
Southern counties	65	24	+41
Chittenden County	55	34	+21
Democrats	73	16	+57
Independents	59	33	+26
Republicans	33	59	-26

Next I am going to mention a few facts about child care and early education in Vermont. Still thinking about the bill to allow child care workers to engage in collective bargaining with the state, please tell me whether each makes you more likely to support the bill, less likely to support the bill, or makes little difference to you either way.

	<u>More Likely</u> <u>To Support</u> <u>The Bill</u>	<u>Less Likely</u> <u>To Support</u> <u>The Bill</u>	<u>Makes Little</u> <u>Difference</u> <u>Either Way</u>	<u>Not</u> <u>Sure</u>
The average child care worker in Vermont earns eight-seventy-seven an hour, without health insurance, sick days, or retirement benefits **	53	11	29	7

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I am going to read you some reasons that people give for supporting the bill to allow child care workers to engage in collective bargaining with the state. Please tell me whether you think each is a very convincing, fairly convincing, just somewhat convincing, or not a convincing reason for supporting the bill.

	Very Convincing Reason	Fairly Convincing Reason	Just A Somewhat Convincing Reason	Not A Convincing Reason	Not Sure
When children receive high-quality early education, they begin kindergarten ready to learn. Investing in early childhood education and care improves the entire academic system and prepares Vermont's children for the future	54	14	16	16	-
The quality of child care a child receives is directly related to the quality of the adult in the room. We must support the profession in order to raise the standard of quality in Vermont's early education system	52	17	14	13	4

The current draft of this bill includes child care workers in home- and family-based programs but not workers who are employed by most child care centers. Would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose amending the bill to include ALL child care workers in Vermont?

Favor	62
Strongly favor.....	27
Somewhat favor.....	35
Oppose	27
Somewhat oppose.....	13
Strongly oppose.....	14
Not sure.....	11