April 6, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to thank you for your commitment to cutting the cost and increasing the supply of high-quality child care for families across the country. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate shortages, with parents unable to find child care and businesses struggling to find workers, contributing to supply chain bottlenecks and inflation. Addressing our nation’s child care crisis remains essential to boosting labor force participation among mothers, helping lower everyday expenses for families and child care providers who are facing higher costs due to inflation, and ensuring all children access the benefits of quality child care that support positive physical and brain development. We stand ready to work with you to enact legislation through reconciliation that ensures middle-class and working families do not spend more than 7 percent of their income on child care, expands access to pre-K, and invests in the early childhood workforce and infrastructure.

As you know, the high costs of child care and the difficulty of finding quality, affordable child care are challenges facing too many families across the country. The annual price of center-based child care for an infant exceeds the annual cost of in-state tuition at a public four-year university in every region of the country. In addition to overwhelming costs, approximately 460,000 families are without reliable child care because the child care sector has lost over 1 in 9 jobs since the start of the pandemic. Low industry wages are driving these challenges, with the

average child care worker earning a median hourly wage of $12.24, and nearly 25 percent of child care workers requiring another job just to afford basic needs.\(^3\)

Now is the time to make additional comprehensive, long-term investments in affordable, high-quality child care to build on the critical but largely short-term investments made through the American Rescue Plan. Relief funding has served as a critical tool for stabilizing child care programs and preventing widespread permanent program closures during the pandemic. However, a recent survey of early childhood educators found that 75 percent of respondents expect that the end of stabilization grants will have a negative effect on their programs.\(^4\) Notably, 89 percent of respondents familiar with the House-passed provisions to ensure that working families do not spend more than 7 percent of their income on child care and that child care workers earn a living wage believe those investments will secure the future of their programs, while experts predict that families stand to save thousands of dollars a year.\(^5\)

It is clear that child care and early learning investments are an integral part of our nation’s strategy for supporting a robust economy, lowering costs for families, and ensuring the long-term success of our children.\(^6\) Lowering the cost of child care will allow working families to allocate money to other pressing family needs. Increasing child care industry wages and access to training will help with the recruitment and retention of child care professionals, creating and supporting millions of jobs for women, especially women of color.\(^7\) Improving access to child care will help working parents rejoin the workforce. One study found that, as of May 2021, the pandemic forced more than 1 in 3 female caregivers to reduce their hours or leave the workforce, which the majority of women said they could not afford to do.\(^8\) Experts predict that approximately 1 million more workers would be in the labor force today if the labor participation rate of mothers with young children could be raised to match the participation rate of women

---


with school-age children. With your leadership and support, we are ready to make these investments a reality.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to working together to enact legislation that supports America’s children, economy, and early learning and child care programs.

Sincerely,

Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gwen Moore</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Alex Padilla</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Schakowsky</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Ron Wyden</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mondaire Jones</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Sheldon Whitehouse</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Welch</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Amy Klobuchar</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Malinowski</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Cory A. Booker</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Bass</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Mazie K. Hirono</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikema Williams</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Ben Ray Luján</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrissy Houlahan</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Robert Menendez</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danny K. Davis</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Jacky Rosen</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James R. Langevin</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Jack Reed</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Manning</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Jeffrey A. Merkley</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Meng</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Richard Blumenthal</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanie Stansbury</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Chris Van Hollen</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald S. Beyer Jr.</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Kirsten Gillibrand</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lois Frankel</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Jeanne Shaheen</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Trahan</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Tammy Duckworth</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>André Carson</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Christopher S. Murphy</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd Doggett</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Angus S. King, Jr.</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann McLane Kuster</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Edward J. Markey</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salud Carbajal</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Tammy Baldwin</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Horsford</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Patrick Leahy</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dina Titus</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Benjamin L. Cardin</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Chu</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Martin Heinrich</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony G. Brown</td>
<td>Member of Congress</td>
<td>Christopher A. Coons</td>
<td>United States Senator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Shontel Brown
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Cynthia Axne  
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress

Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Political Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Brownley</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Larsen</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Escobar</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David N. Cicilline</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conor Lamb</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilhan Omar</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angie Craig</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Dingell</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Castor</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emanuel Cleaver, II</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Blunt Rochester</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn B. Maloney</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam B. Schiff</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaialiʻi Kahele</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddie Bernice Johnson</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stacey E. Plaskett</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin L. Kelly</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Norcross</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie Newman</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Wasserman Schultz</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda T. Sánchez</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederica S. Wilson</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>