

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you consider Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations legislation, we urge you to include the following high-impact investments in early education, early intervention, and high-quality child care:

Provide an additional \$6.2 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) for FY 2023. After a historic funding increase for CCDBG in FY 2018, which was maintained and expanded in the following years, states have been able to make important progress in addressing the critical child care needs of children and families. As a result of the 2018 investment, the total number of children on waitlists for child care assistance decreased by 55 percent and over half the states increased payments to providers with an average increase of over \$100 a month per child.¹ However, significant gaps that remain have only been widened by the coronavirus pandemic.

At least 16,000 child care programs across 37 states have closed over the last two years, contributing to the challenges that thousands of families are facing today in accessing affordable, high-quality child care.² Many of the programs that managed to stay open continue to operate on razor-thin margins. Although over a million children are provided a child care subsidy through CCDBG, it is available to only a fraction of eligible families.³ By doubling the amount of funding available through CCDBG, we can significantly increase the number of children and families that would be provided child care subsidies to help lower the cost of care for working families. Accessible high-quality child care allows parents to return to work, strengthens our economic recovery, and ensures all children can access care that supports positive physical and brain development.

¹ Schulman, Karen, *Early Progress: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2019*, NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER (October 2019), <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/NWLC-State-Child-Care-Assistance-Policies-2019-final.pdf>.

² Child Care Aware, *Demanding Change: Repairing our Child Care System* (March 2022), <https://www.childcareaware.org/demanding-change-repairing-our-child-care-system/>.

³ Kashen, Julie, *The Top Six Reasons We Need Comprehensive Child Care and Universal Pre-K*, THE CENTURY FOUNDATION (Feb. 24, 2022), <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/top-six-reasons-need-comprehensive-child-care-universal-pre-k/>; see also U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Estimates of Child Care Eligibility and Receipt for FY18* (August 2021) <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-08/cy-2018-child-care-subsidy-eligibility.pdf>.

Accordingly, an additional \$6.2 billion for CCDBG is vital to supporting our nation's caregivers and improving economic mobility for low-income families. Specifically, increased investment would result in the following:

- **Serve more than an additional 800,000 children:** If Congress were to double funding for CCDBG and use 80% of that funding on direct services, more than 800,000 additional children would be reached with the federal discretionary dollars alone.⁴ According to recent data, just 1 in 9 young children who were eligible for CCDBG actually received assistance in 2019.⁵ Over a dozen states have waiting lists or frozen intake for child care assistance.⁶ A significant increase in CCDBG funding will expand the program's ability to provide high-quality care to more eligible children who are not currently receiving subsidies.
- **Increase payments and wages for providers as well as improve accessibility and quality:** While prior increases in CCDBG funding have allowed some states to increase some of their payment rates for providers serving families receiving child care assistance, more work is needed. In 2020, only one state paid child care providers at the federally recommended rate.⁷ As a consequence of historic underfunding, the child care sector is currently missing one in nine jobs since the pandemic began, which has further threatened child care supply and compromised the ability of this sector to support working families.⁸ By committing to greater investment in CCDBG, states are further incentivized to make changes that improve the quality of child care for all children and acknowledge child care providers as essential to our economic well-being.
- **Enable women to fully participate the workforce:** There are 872,000 fewer women in the labor force now than in February 2020, and studies have found that increases in CCDBG subsidies have the potential to substantially increase workforce participation and employment rates for low-income mothers in the United States.⁹ In fact, a recent report by the U.S. Census Bureau found that child care subsidies help working mothers stay in the labor force and narrow the pay gap between spouses.¹⁰ The child care crisis is an economic issue that disproportionately impacts women, and studies show that women are

⁴ Estimate provided by the Center for Law and Social Policy. The subsidy rate used in this calculation is based on the average monthly subsidy paid across care types and age groups based on the [FY 2019 CCDF data](#).

⁵ Malik, Rasheed, *The Build Back Better Act Substantially Expands Child Care Assistance*, THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS (Dec. 2, 2021), <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-build-back-better-act-substantially-expands-child-care-assistance/>.

⁶ Schulman, Karen, *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2020*, NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER (May 2021), <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/NWLC-State-Child-Care-Assistance-Policies-2020.pdf>.

⁷ Schulman, Karen, *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2020*, NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER (May 2021), <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/NWLC-State-Child-Care-Assistance-Policies-2020.pdf>.

⁸ Tucker, Jasmine & Lepage, Brooke, *Women Gain 93% of the Jobs Added to the Economy in March*, NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER (April 2022) <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/March-Jobs-Day.pdf>.

⁹ Tucker, Jasmine & Lepage, Brooke, *Women Gain 93% of the Jobs Added to the Economy in March*, NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER (April 2022) <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/March-Jobs-Day.pdf>; Enchautegui, Maria et. al, *Effects of the CCDF Subsidy Program on the Employment Outcomes of Low Income Mothers*, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION (December 2016), <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/private/pdf/253961/EffectsCCSubsidiesMaternalLFPTechnical.pdf>.

¹⁰ Gurrentz, Benjamin, *Child Care Subsidies Help Married Moms Continue Working, Bring Greater Pay Equity*, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU (Oct. 12, 2021), <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/10/measuring-impact-of-child-care-subsidies-on-working-moms.html>.

nearly three times as likely as men to not work outside the home during the pandemic because of child care demands.¹¹ By making strong federal additional investments in CCDBG, we support working women and families.

In addition, we urge you to provide increased funds for the two critical early childhood programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Together, Part C Early Intervention and Part B 619 Preschool Special Education programs deliver comprehensive services for children with disabilities from birth through 5 years of age and their families. These programs serve over 1.23 million children per year, about double the number served in 1991, and benefit all states. Unfortunately, federal investments in both IDEA Part C and IDEA Part B 619 Preschool have failed to match increases in the number of children served as well as cost of inflation. Consequently, both programs have experienced a significant erosion of funding over the last two decades. Federal funding for IDEA Part C is only at \$645 per child, adjusted for inflation. For IDEA Part B Preschool 619, federal funding is at only \$529 per child, adjusted for inflation. We urge the Committee to significantly increase the federal contribution to funding important investments by providing at least \$932 million in FY 2023 funding for IDEA Part C Grants for Infants and Toddlers to help increase program access and expand services. In addition, we ask the Committee to provide at least \$502.6 million in FY 2023 funding for Preschool Grants under Part B Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

High-quality early interventions in early care and education can produce a 13 percent per child, per year return on investment.¹² This substantial return on investment is derived largely from long-term savings associated with a reduced need for special education, improved health outcomes, higher rates of high school and college graduation, decreased dependence on welfare programs, and increased workforce productivity of children who receive a high-quality early education.

We hope that you will fully support these critical investments in young learners, working women, and families.

Sincerely,



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

¹¹ Gurrentz, Benjamin, *Child Care Subsidies Help Married Moms Continue Working, Bring Greater Pay Equity*, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU (Oct. 12, 2021), <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/10/measuring-impact-of-child-care-subsidies-on-working-moms.html>.

¹² Heckman, James, *Economist James J. Heckman: Early Education Packs a High Return on Investment*, COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (March 6, 2017), <https://www.ced.org/blog/entry/comprehensive-birth-to-age-five-early-childhood-education-has-the-highest-r>.



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



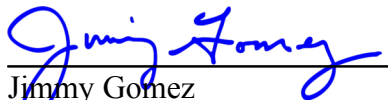
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



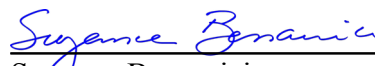
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



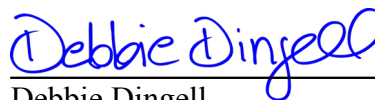
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress




Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress




Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



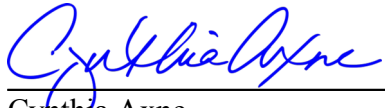
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



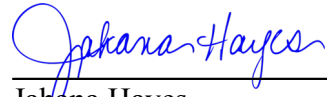
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



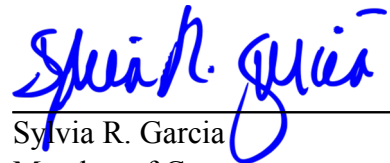
Cynthia Axne
Member of Congress



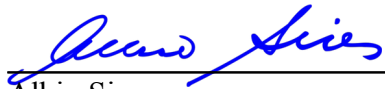
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



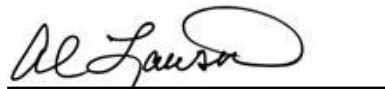
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



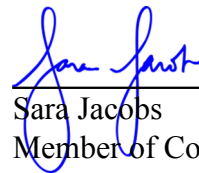
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



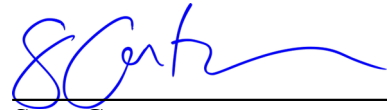
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



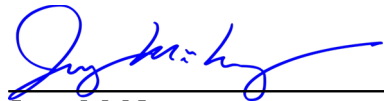
Conor Lamb
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



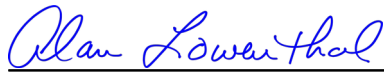
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



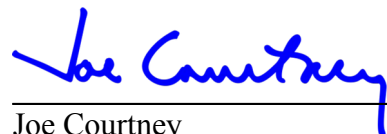
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



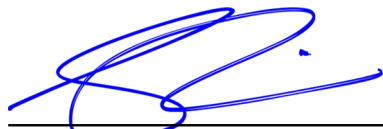
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



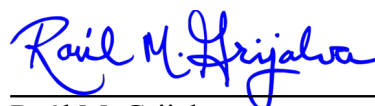
Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress



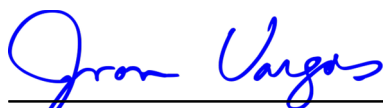
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



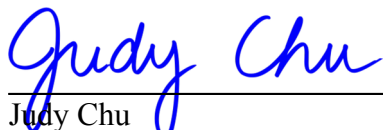
Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



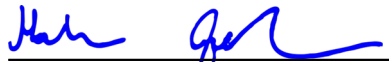
Adam Smith
Member of Congress




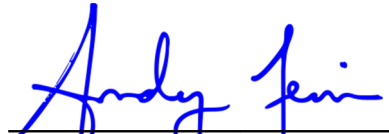
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress





Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress

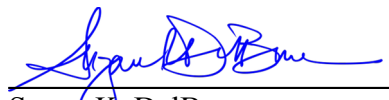

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress


Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress


Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



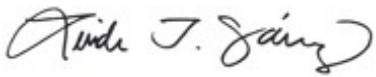
Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



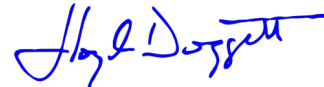
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



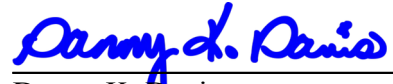
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



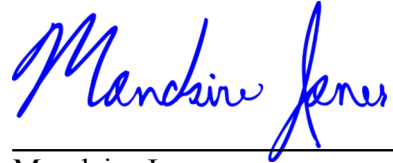
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



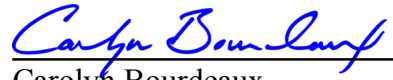
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



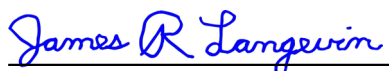
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



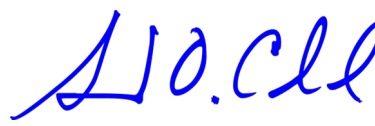
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



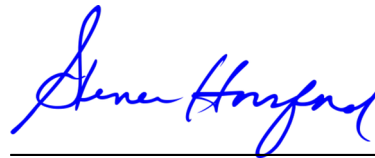
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress




Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress




Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



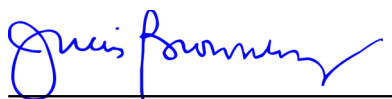
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress




Jim Himes
Member of Congress




Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



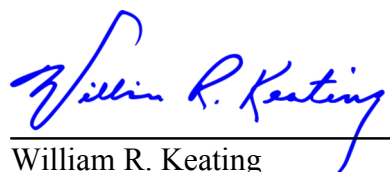
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress




Dwight Evans
Member of Congress




Cori Bush
Member of Congress




William R. Keating
Member of Congress




Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



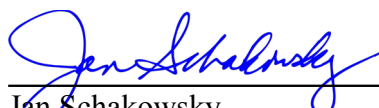
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



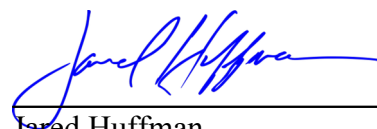
A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



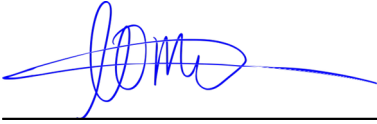
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



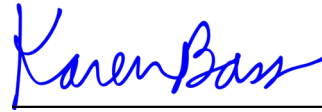
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



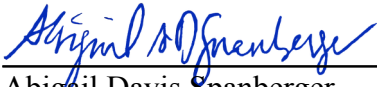
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress