

# SUPPORT EARLY EDUCATION AND WORKING FAMILIES

**From:** The Honorable Katherine M. Clark  
**Sent By:** [geoff.browning@mail.house.gov](mailto:geoff.browning@mail.house.gov)  
**Date:** 3/16/2017

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in writing to House Appropriators in support of three programs that are absolutely critical to the well-being of America's young children, women, and working families.

**Early education and intervention** yield a lifetime of positive benefits—not just for our youngest learners, but also for our nation's economy as a whole. These programs provide an outsized return to the American taxpayer, both supporting the economic competitiveness of future generations and allowing each child an equal opportunity to succeed.

Access to **quality child care** is a basic element of economic fairness, especially for working women. Far too often, hardworking American parents are forced to choose between ensuring their child's healthy development and making basic ends meet.

Our letter ensures high-impact federal investments in **both** of these areas remain intact.

Specifically, we call for the following:

- **Discretionary funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) of \$3.47 billion for FY18, which is equal to the enacted (FY16 full-year) level plus what HHS estimates will be required for initial implementation of the 2014 CCDBG reauthorization while maintaining the current caseload of roughly 1.4 million children.** During the last Congress, CCDBG was reauthorized with strong bipartisan support for the first time since 1996. The new law includes provisions designed to ensure the health and safety of children in child care settings and make child care assistance more accessible to low-income families. Our request will help states implement policies required by the new law. Millions of American families count child care as the highest (or second highest) single cost they face. CCDBG funds leverage the purchasing power of these working families—without this program, millions of American parents would simply be unable to contribute to our nation's economic prosperity.
- **Funding Grants for Infants and Families (Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) at no less than \$480,361,000, which equals the enacted (FY16 full-year) level indexed for two years' of inflation.** A simple toddler hearing test costs \$10-\$50—a missed or late hearing impairment diagnosis costs a lifetime of diminished communication skills. This program supports early intervention and screening where it counts, when it counts, for 358,000 children per year.

- **Funding Preschool Grants (Part B Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) at no less than \$385,748,000, which equals the enacted (FY16 full-year) level indexed for two years' of inflation.** These funds leverage state investment to ensure 764,000 young children (ages 3-5) with disabilities enter school ready to succeed.

Together, these programs typically represent less than 0.09% of the federal budget. We hope you will join us in doing what is the right thing for American working women, families, and young learners, as well as our nation's economic footing in the increasingly competitive global marketplace.

Should you have any questions or wish to join the letter, please contact Geoff Browning (Rep. Clark) at [geoff.browning@mail.house.gov](mailto:geoff.browning@mail.house.gov) or Clifton Williams (Rep. Fudge) at [clifton.williams@mail.house.gov](mailto:clifton.williams@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

KATHERINE CLARK

Member of Congress

MARCIA FUDGE

Member of Congress

ROBERT C. "BOBBY"  
SCOTT

Member of Congress

**LETTER TEXT:**

March XX, 2017

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Chairman

House Appropriations Committee

H-305, The Capitol

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member

House Appropriations Committee

1016 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, and Education

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, and Education

2368-B Rayburn House Office Building

1016 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Kingston, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you consider Fiscal Year 2018 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 quality child care:

◆ **\$3.47B in discretionary FY18 funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), equal to what the Department of Health and Human Services has estimated is required to initially implement the 2014 reauthorization of this program while maintaining its current caseload of roughly 1.4 million children.** Child care remains one of the highest costs faced by American families, and as a result, far too many parents must choose between the healthy development of their children and making basic ends meet. These high-impact federal funds leverage the individual purchasing power of American families, and without them, millions of working parents will be unable to contribute to our nation's economic prosperity. Every month, CCDBG funding provides over 850,000 American families with access to quality, affordable child care, impacting over 1.4 million American children. During the last Congress, CCDBG was reauthorized with strong bipartisan support for the first time since 1996. The new law includes provisions designed to ensure the health and safety of children in child care settings, and make child care assistance more accessible to low-income families. However, implementing these important reforms will demand new resources to enable states to meet the new requirements without cutting child care assistance to children—already, CCDBG serves 364,000 fewer children per month than it did in 2006.

◆ **\$480,361,000 in FY18 funding for Grants for Infants and Families under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, equal to the enacted FY16 level indexed for two years of inflation.** A simple child hearing test costs \$10-\$50. A missed or late hearing impairment diagnosis costs a lifetime of diminished communication skills. This program allows states to provide early intervention and screening for 352,000 American children per year. Renowned economists, including Nobel Laureate James Heckman, have demonstrated high-quality early education can produce from \$7 to \$16 in benefits for every \$1 spent. 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. This program serves 358,000 children per year.

◆ **\$385,748,000 in FY18 funding for Preschool Grants under Part B Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, equal to the enacted FY16 level indexed for two years of inflation.** These funds leverage significant nonfederal investment to ensure 753,000 children with disabilities aged 3-5 enter school ready to succeed. As stated

above, research has demonstrated early childhood education is an effective strategy for improving the developmental outcomes and long-term success of children, especially low-income children. This program is a critical part of that effort. This program serves 764,000 children per year.

Together, these programs typically represent **less than 0.09% of the entire federal budget**, but they have an outsized impact on the economic competitiveness of future generations. They also provide a strong, continuing return to the American taxpayer by both ensuring the sustained prosperity of our nation as a whole and helping families succeed.

We hope you will fully support these investments, which are critical to American working women, families, and young learners.

Sincerely,