

Members of Congress Showcase Bipartisan Support for Early Learning and Care

In recent months, members of the House and Senate from both parties have paid visits to early learning and care providers across the country – highlighting their support and the importance of high-quality early childhood opportunities for children from birth through age five. These visits allow Members to witness first-hand the care and educational experiences that support the healthy development of American's youngest learners, while raising awareness about the importance of federal investments in programs like Head Start & Early Head Start, child care, and more for local communities.

How Members Can Demonstrate Their Leadership

During in-district work periods, Members have an opportunity to highlight their work on behalf of the communities they serve. While in district, there are many ways to demonstrate support for this important bipartisan issue for children and families.

Convene Local Stakeholders

- **Host** a neighborhood roundtable on quality child care in your area
- **Host** a community meeting with early learning providers and professionals to discuss their experiences

Gain First-Hand Knowledge

- **Tour** a child care, Head Start, or other preschool facility
- **Visit** with families participating in home-based child care
- **Meet** with a child psychologist to discuss how the opioid epidemic is affecting children and families
- **Read** to children
- **Meet** with nurses or other home visiting practitioners funded by MIECHV

Highlight Early Childhood Issues

- **Organize** a task force on early childhood education
- **Ask** business leaders about the importance of access to quality child care for their employees
- **Write** an Op-Ed on federal support for early childhood care and education



These events provide opportunities to engage directly with constituents. Contact Sarah Rubinfeld, FFYF Government Affairs Director, at srubinfeld@ffyf.org, to get in touch with local early childhood education advocates in your area to learn more and schedule events. FFYF is also able to provide background information for your event.



FIRST FIVE
YEARS FUND

THE SPIRIT

CASEY TALKS CHILDCARE WITH PROVIDERS, PARENTS



News and Tribune

REP. HOLLINGSWORTH MEETS THOSE HELPED BY LOCAL HEAD START



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Daily Record

CNEW CONGRESS- MAN GRILLED BY PRESCHOOL 'JOURNALISTS'



Chronicle

CONGRESSMAN ROSE SEES HEAD START CENTER IN ACTION



LISA MURKOWSKI VISITS THE CCS LEARNING FACILITIES



Voters and Experts Agree: Early Learning is Worth the Investment



The overwhelming evidence and research demonstrate that high-quality early care and education is a crucial component of a child's healthy development. Children from low-income families who receive a high-quality early childhood education are proven to be more likely to earn higher wages, live healthier lives, avoid incarceration, raise stronger families, and contribute to society. That's why, as research shows, for every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education, society gains up to \$7.30 in economic returns over the long-term.

What's more, voters see quality early childhood education as a necessity for today's families and want the federal government to work together to find ways to support the care and education of children from birth through age five. According to FFYF's 2018 national poll, **89 percent of voters support making quality early childhood education for children more affordable for working families.**

Like voters, Congress has long seen early learning and care as an issue, and recent bipartisan actions demonstrate Members' commitment to this issue. **These include:**

- **Historic \$2.37 billion increase** for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program in FY2018.
- **Steady increase** in funding for Head Start, Early Head Start, and IDEA Preschool Grants over recent years.
- **Creation of the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)** program, which is empowering 46 states and territories to improve and better align current early learning systems.



Access to high-quality care in a child's first five years helps ensure they develop the skills necessary to do well in school, decreasing the need for costly interventions later in life.

- Early learning and care increases high school graduation rates by 14 percent.¹
- Preschool reduced the percentage of children repeating a grade by 15 percent.²

High-quality early learning and care also has tremendous benefits to families and the economy.

- Child care helps parents return to work and generate an additional \$79,000 in lifetime earnings for mothers.³
- A lack of child care causes businesses to lose an estimated \$4.4 billion annually due to employee absenteeism.⁴

¹ Lynn Karoly, Anamarie Auger, "Informing Investments In Preschool Quality And Access In Cincinnati," Rand Corporation, 2016

² Lynn Karoly, Anamarie Auger, "Informing Investments In Preschool Quality And Access In Cincinnati," Rand Corporation, 2016

³ "2016 Report: Parents And The High Cost Of Child Care," Child Care Aware Of America, 2016

⁴ Lynn Karoly, Anamarie Auger, "Informing Investments In Preschool Quality And Access In Cincinnati," Rand Corporation, 2016