



Funding Child Care in Federal Relief Legislation

Key findings from a national survey among 1,216 likely voters, including 250 working parents of children age 0 to 5, conducted July 7 to 12, 2020

A new survey conducted by Hart Research (D) and New Bridge Strategy (R) among voters nationally* finds overwhelming support for the Child Care Stabilization Fund currently being considered in Congress, recognizing the strain that working parents of young children are under right now.

Voters—particularly those who are themselves working parents of young children—say it is very important that Congress include support for child care in the next financial relief legislation, as they widely believe it would have a positive impact on working parents’ ability to earn a living and to the nation’s economic recovery.

The key findings from this survey are outlined below.

More than 8 in 10 voters favor a federal child care stabilization fund up to \$50 billion in the upcoming COVID-19 recovery package, with overwhelming support across partisan lines, generations, and genders. Fully 86% say they favor this fund, while just 14% oppose it. Support spans the partisan spectrum, with 77% of Republicans, 81% of independents, and 97% of Democrats in favor. It is also very high among other key elements of the electorate, including 2016 Trump voters (74%), suburban women (86%), and black (97%) and Latinx (93%) voters.

- Support is nearly unanimous among working parents of young children themselves: 90% favor this fund, including 56% who strongly favor it. Support among Republican parents (84%) is noticeably higher than it is among Republican voters overall (77%).

Voters are clear that Congress must act soon. They express urgency for action in this area in several ways:

- 77% say that working parents with young children have been affected “a lot” by the coronavirus crisis.
- 85% of voters who do not have young children themselves say it is essential (49%) or very important (36%) that working parents of young children have high-quality, affordable child care available to them.

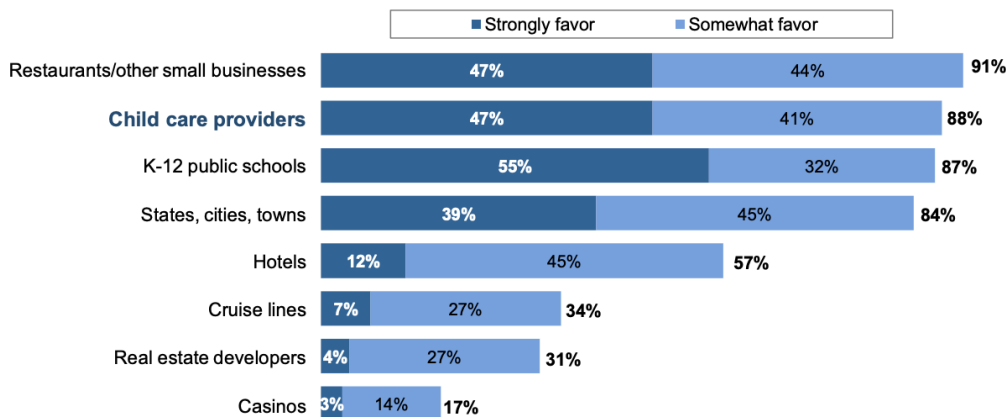
** Methodology details: A national online survey of 1,216 voters conducted online July 7-12, 2020. The survey included an oversample of employed parents of children under age 6, for a total of 250 of this group, which was weighted down to its correct proportion of the national electorate (8%). The margin of error for the full sample is +3.2% and is +6.2% for the working parents sample. Margins of error for other subgroups vary.*

- 64% say that it is essential (30%) or very important (34%) (and another 23% say it is fairly important) that Congress include support for child care in the next financial relief legislation.

Voters want child care providers near the front of the line for relief. Approximately nine in 10 voters favor child care providers receiving support in the next economic relief legislation, putting providers way above such businesses as hotels, cruise lines, and real estate developers—all of whom received support in the first round of aid.

Voters Want Child Care Providers Near Front of the Line for Relief

Favor this group/business receiving additional financial relief in legislation Congress is planning



Again, there is significant agreement on this point among partisans, with 80% of Republicans, 86% of independents, and 96% of Democrats declaring themselves in favor—in each case, substantially higher than the proportions who favor support for the other industries noted.

Voters broadly recognize federal funding for child care as providing a range of benefits.

Large majorities of voters say such funding would have a positive impact on:

- The ability of parents with young children to work and earn a living (84%)
- Women’s ability to work (82%)
- The well-being of young children whose parents work (80%)
- The economic recovery (70%)

The survey data illustrate the degree to which working parents are struggling and why financial relief for child care is imperative. Several key numbers from the sample of working parents who have children under age 6 explain the urgency:

- Seven in 10 working parents of young children (69%) say they have personally been affected a lot or some by the coronavirus crisis, well above the average of all voters (58%). Among those who usually have a child in out-of-home care, 80% say they have been affected.

- Only one in four of these parents (24%) who have their child in out-of-home care have continued to use their usual child care arrangement over the past few months, but one in three (34%) are still paying as much as usual for child care.
- 30% of parents with children in out-of-home care either say they do not know if their child care arrangement will still be available once the crisis passes or say that it will not be available.
- When informed of a study that estimates that the nation will lose nearly half of its child care supply if providers do not receive financial help, 77% of working parents of young children say it causes them concern, including a 55% majority who say it causes a great deal of concern. Among those with children in out-of-home care, concern increases to 88%.