



HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING AND CARE

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# 2021 CONGRESSIONAL RECESS TOOLKIT

Opportunities to Raise Awareness and  
Show Support for Child Care Relief in the  
American Rescue Plan

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# Opportunities for Members Of Congress to Raise Awareness and Show Support for the Child Care Relief in the American Rescue Plan

While Congress adjourns for the next few weeks, Members will be returning to their district to meet with constituents who will want to know more about the recently passed American Rescue Plan and how it will help them. For many, there are no more important provisions in this economic stimulus package than the \$39 billion in relief for the child care industry and expansion of the child care and dependent care tax credit that your boss voted to pass. **This emergency funding is a lifeline to child care providers in your [district and state](#)**, many of whom have been pushed to the brink of collapse by rising operational costs and declining enrollment caused by the pandemic, and it will allow them to keep their doors open and continue serving their communities as parents look for care.



Find how much child care relief funding was awarded to your state [here](#)

The Coronavirus pandemic has reinforced for millions of Americans the indispensable role of child care and early learning for children, working parents, and communities. According to FFYF's [polling](#), more than 80% of Republican and Democratic voters widely support federal investments that improve affordability, access, and quality of early learning and child care, making this a rare unifying issue that brings together Republicans and Democrats.

To help you elevate your boss' support for this critical relief and their commitment to addressing the needs of our nation's youngest learners, we have put together a few suggestions to incorporate into your upcoming recess plans and events.



## District Events

Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many ways to connect with constituents, both virtually and safely in-person, to discuss the importance of child care relief and show support for children, families, and the economy. FFYF is happy to help facilitate the logistics of any of these child care-related events; please do not hesitate to reach out.

### Virtual Meetings with Local Stakeholders

- **Host** virtual or COVID-safe meetings with local stakeholders, such as child care providers, business owners, and community leaders to discuss the critical role of child care to the local economy
- **Host** a virtual neighborhood discussion on COVID-19's impact on child care and the relief proposals included in the American Rescue Plan
- **Host** virtual roundtables with local child care providers and professionals to discuss their experiences and how the relief funding in the American Rescue Plan will support their ability to serve the children and working families that depend on them
- **Host** telephone town halls for parents and caregivers to hear their concerns and answer questions about the American Rescue Plan
- **Speak** with local business leaders about the challenges employees are facing because of child care problems
- **Host** virtual discussions with local community organizers to hear their progress and setbacks

### Highlight First-Hand Knowledge

- **Tour** a child care, Head Start, or other preschool facility that has safely reopened
- **Hold** online story sessions to read to children in the community
- **Call** families participating in home-based child care to learn about their experiences
- **Write** an op-ed about the critical relief for families and child care providers included in the American Rescue Plan
- **Talk** to a child psychologist to discuss how the pandemic is affecting children and families

# Constituent Outreach



Since the ongoing pandemic limits in-person community gatherings, reaching out to constituents through digital channels is more important than ever.

## Sample E-Newsletter

Throughout [DISTRICT/STATE], child care providers have struggled to keep their doors open during the pandemic, making it difficult for working parents to find high-quality, affordable child care options for their young children. This has had a devastating impact on our local economy as parents have been forced to leave the workforce to care for their children.

My conversations with constituents across [DISTRICT/STATE] have revealed that there is strong support for providing relief to help early learning and care providers stay in business during the pandemic. That is one reason why I was proud to vote for the American Rescue Plan, an economic stimulus package that includes a critical lifeline to [STATE] child care providers and families so that working parents can continue to access the child care they rely on through the recovery and beyond.

The work doesn't end here though. When I return to Washington, I will continue working with my colleagues to find bipartisan opportunities to invest in early childhood education. To follow my continued efforts on this issue and others, you can sign up for my e-newsletter, follow me on social media, or contact my office at any time.

## Sample Social Media

- Through the American Rescue Plan, [STATE/DISTRICT] child care providers will receive \$[XX] in critical relief that will allow them to keep their doors open and continue serving their community.
- I voted for the American Rescue Plan to ensure more [STATE/DISTRICT] families could afford high-quality child care by expanding the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and providing critical relief for the child care industry.
- Access to high-quality early childhood education is crucial for our children, working parents, and economy as we begin to recover from the pandemic. I proudly voted for #childcare relief in the American Rescue Plan to ensure providers can remain open to serve their communities.
- #ChildCare is an essential industry for [STATE] parents, and I am proud to support them. The recently passed American Rescue Plan crucial relief to ensure our child care providers can remain open to serve their communities.
- High-quality #childcare helps children lay foundations for success later in life & allows parents to return to work and advance their careers. I voted for the American Rescue Plan to provide relief that ensures child care providers can keep their doors open through the pandemic.
- I voted for the American Rescue Plan to ensure struggling [STATE] child care providers get the relief they need to stay in business. Without #childcare our economic recovery after this pandemic will be incomplete.
- [STATE] child care providers and families made it clear: child care is essential. That is why I voted to pass #childcare relief in the American Rescue Plan. We need our daycares and child care facilities open for business as we recover from this pandemic.