



2022 Virtual Kickoff Event for the Bipartisan Congressional Pre-K and Child Care Caucus

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Pre-K and Child Care Caucus Co-Chairs:

Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-TX)

@JoaquinCastrotx

Joaquin Castro represents Texas' 20th district in the U.S. House of Representatives. Serving his fifth term, Rep. Castro is a member of on the House Intelligence and Education and Labor Committees, the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations, and Global Corporate Social Impact, and is the immediate past Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Rep. Castro also founded the Congressional Pre-K and Child Care Caucus, the U.S.-Japan Caucus, and the Congressional Caucus on ASEAN. Before Congress, Rep. Castro graduated from Stanford University and Harvard Law School, and served five terms in the Texas Legislature.

Assistant Speaker Katherine Clark (D-MA)

@RepKClark

Congresswoman Katherine Clark proudly serves the Fifth District of Massachusetts. She was first elected in a special election in December of 2013.

Katherine's career in public service is driven by her commitment to helping children and families succeed. She is a vocal advocate for ending wage discrimination, protecting women's health care, access to affordable, high-quality child care, paid family leave, safer schools, and other reforms to address the challenges women and families face. She believes that Congress must work to end the glaring disconnect between the needs of families at home and priorities in Washington.

In Congress, she brings her experience as a state senator, state representative, general counsel for the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services, and policy chief for the state attorney general. In fall 2020, she was elected by her colleagues to serve as Assistant Speaker of the 117th Congress after serving as the Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus during the previous session. Additionally, she serves as a member of the Steering and Policy Committee within the Caucus.

Katherine is a member of the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations and three subcommittees within Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; Legislative Branch; and Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

Katherine, her husband Rodney, and their three children Addison, Riley, and Nathaniel live in Melrose.

Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK)

@TomColeOK04

Tom Cole was elected to the House in 2002. He is a tireless advocate for taxpayers and small businesses, supporter of a strong national defense and leader in promoting biomedical and disease research. A member of the Chickasaw Nation, Cole is considered the foremost expert in the House on issues related to Native Americans and tribal governments.

While serving as the Ranking Member on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Cole shepherded completion of the subcommittee's annual funding bill and negotiated the final product for fiscal year 2022. As Ranking Member, Cole advocated for and helped secure sustained investments in preschool and childcare. In fiscal year 2022, funding for Head Start programs increased by \$288 million and funding for childcare development block grants increased by \$254 million.

Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL)

@RodneyDavis

Rodney Davis is currently serving his fifth term in Congress representing the 13th District of Illinois, which covers a 14-county region that includes both urban and rural communities in central and southwestern Illinois. Rodney serves on the Committee on House Administration, where he is the Ranking Member, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where he is the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, and the House Committee on Agriculture.

Panelists:

Vicki Wilson

@msvickiwilson

Vicki Wilson has spent the last 23 years of her career at Byng Public Schools and has been principal of Homer Elementary School for 16. She was selected as the Oklahoma Elementary Principal of the Year by OAESP and as a National Distinguished Principal by NAESP in 2020. Wilson is a committed administrator and educator, and she regularly spends time with teachers analyzing student achievement data. Because of her commitment to helping students reach their highest potential, she has been able to successfully implement a STEM lab, robotics, and a mentoring program at her school. The connection between student engagement and student success is not lost on Wilson, who is a believer in real-life learning beyond the classroom. She is continuously engaging with new ideas and programs to benefit her students. Under Wilson's leadership, Homer Elementary has won many awards, accolades, and grants and was

recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2008, making Homer one of the top schools in the country. Beyond her notable achievements, Wilson has succeeded in creating a warm, welcoming school culture where every student feels valued and where equity and inclusion are paramount. Wilson, an Early Childhood National Board Certified Teacher, holds a master's degree in Education from East Central University, a Teaching Credential from Patten University, and a B.B.A. with Special Distinction from the University of Oklahoma. She served as an adjunct instructor at Seminole State College for 11 years.

Mayra Rosado

Mayra Rosado has been working at Nurtury Early Education supporting our Family Child Care network for over 10 years. Nurtury is a mission-driven nonprofit providing early care and education to 1,000 of Greater Boston's youngest and most vulnerable children, including infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Nurtury operates four early learning centers in Boston and Cambridge and supports a network of 140 family child care home-based businesses throughout Greater Boston, including Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, Everett, and other communities. Since September 2021, Mayra has served as Senior Program Director for Family Child Care guiding services and support to our provider network as well as the children and families they serve. Mayra holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. She and her family live in Revere.

Dr. Mary Miller-Baker

@MaryMillerBaker

Dr. Mary Miller-Baker is the Senior Director for Educational Operations at the Edgewood Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas. She currently oversees the District's Early Childhood Program as well as other support programs designed to address student challenges. Her career in the school district has included teaching, principal, central office, and executive leadership roles. She is a graduate of the University of Texas at San Antonio, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, Master's in Administration and Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Dr. Miller-Baker has taught students from elementary to university level. Her central office experience has allowed her to supervise all levels (Pre-K through 12) as well as special programs. This vast experience has shaped her early childhood perspective and the need to advocate for quality education at this foundational level. Currently Dr. Miller-Baker supports partnerships with the City of San Antonio to enhance early childhood learning through Head Start and other Pre-Kindergarten programs.