

April XX, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
U.S. House Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we are writing to respectfully request that you provide robust funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

Recognizing the need to direct taxpayer resources to programs that can demonstrate a return on federal investments, quality child care - which has a strong evidence base - plays a crucial role in supporting children's healthy development, learning, and school readiness, while also enabling parents to work, train, or pursue an education. In this way, CCDBG not only improves future opportunities for children, but also invests in parents by supporting their ability to work and be successful. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, families at every income level struggled to find and afford high-quality care, and less than twenty percent of eligible children received support through the CCDBG subsidy program. These challenges have only been exacerbated over the last two years as the pandemic forced many providers to close, and those who remain open struggle to find staff and return to operating at their prior capacity. Now, more than ever, access to affordable high-quality child care remains a barrier for many parents who wish to enter and remain in the workforce. Given the importance of this program to working families across the country and the fundamental role of child care in our economic recovery, there is a critical need for robust CCDBG funding.

CCDBG is a key component of the long-standing, federal-state early childhood education partnership. Through CCDBG, the federal government works with states to support local providers to address the individual needs of children and families, while also prioritizing parental choice. Additionally, CCDBG creates a solid foundation upon which states are building their own child care systems, by leveraging federal funding to create and expand high-quality early learning and care opportunities beyond what is possible with state funding alone.

The 2014 bipartisan reauthorization of the CCDBG Act made important changes to improve the overall quality of care available and to make it easier for parents to find and maintain high-quality care. Congress has made bipartisan investments in CCDBG in recent years, which has helped states to meet these new quality and safety standards, take critical steps toward decreasing

costs to parents, reduce waitlists, and support local providers; still, much work remains. As states continue to implement the 2014 quality improvements while responding to the needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, additional funding is essential to expanding access to quality child care for more working families.

High-quality child care is indispensable for working families, offering parents better job stability and overall economic security, and setting children on a path to success later in life. The pandemic has made this fact a stark reality, while also demonstrating that child care is the linchpin for our country's economic recovery. For these reasons, we urge you to include robust funding for CCDBG in the FY2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We appreciate the bipartisan support you have shown CCDBG in the past, and we hope to continue to work with you to support increased investments in quality child care as the appropriations process moves forward this year.

Sincerely,

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Maria Salazar
Member of Congress

