

January 27, 2026

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Director Vought:

As this Administration seeks to bring down costs for American families, we write to ask that quality, affordable child care and early learning programs be prioritized in the fiscal year 2027 (FY2027) domestic policy agenda portion of the President's Budget Request to Congress. During the President's first term, his Administration took multiple steps to expand access to child care, recognizing the tremendous challenges facing American families and the critical role child care plays in growing and supporting families, businesses, and the broader economy. Important appropriations increases to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Head Start made during that time helped improve access for many families, though there is still a large gap between the families who qualify for subsidies and those that actually receive them. This year, with the passage of the tax reconciliation package, the Trump Administration made permanent improvements to three child care tax provisions for parents and employers. With this budget proposal, the Administration has an opportunity to further support American families and businesses, who rely on care to help fuel our economy.

Child care has become a cornerstone of a prosperous nation, and yet too many Americans today continue to struggle to afford and find reliable child care that meets their needs. This struggle doesn't just affect families, it also creates ripple effects for businesses, making it harder to attract and retain talent while reducing overall productivity. Making sure working parents can find and afford quality child care is both pro-work and pro-family. National polling consistently shows that voters are united in wanting child care to remain a priority for Congress and the Administration. Among Republican voters, 91% say it is a serious problem or crisis that families cannot afford child care and 79% look to President Trump and Republicans in Congress to do more to help working parents afford it. Across the electorate, strong majorities agree that improving access to affordable child care would lower costs for working families (85%) and strengthen the overall economy (71%). Public support for Head Start is similarly broad, with 79% of voters, including majorities from all political parties, expressing support for the program.

Addressing America's child care challenges provides the Administration with the opportunity to strengthen family finances, support a thriving workforce, and boost the economy. When parents have access to care that works for them, they are better able to stay in the workforce, contribute to their communities, and provide stability for their children. Businesses benefit as well, with improved employee retention, productivity, and economic growth. Most importantly, quality child care provides young children with vital opportunities to learn and grow.

As you craft the FY2027 Presidential budget, we urge you to continue to prioritize investments in child care solutions essential to families, businesses, and the President's economic agenda by prioritizing programs like the CCDBG and Head Start. Current funding for these programs reaches only a fraction of eligible families, leaving many struggling to find affordable, quality care. Without further investment, Head Start and child care programs will face ongoing challenges in retaining educators, reducing available child care options and making them even less accessible and affordable for working parents. This issue is key to solving the affordability crisis that families are facing.

We respectfully request your consideration of the following necessary funding amounts in the FY2027 Presidential budget, to help meet the pressing needs of America's families and secure a stronger economic future for our children and our nation.

- Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) – At least an additional \$3.65 billion for CCDBG (a total of at least \$12.4 billion), which will expand the base CCDBG budget and support states in making targeted investments to their child care systems aligned with longer-term needs. In almost all states, CCDBG reaches less than 15% of eligible children. Additional funding will allow states to provide more families with vouchers, support and retain the child care workforce, and increase access and options for parents. Further, we support sustained child care investments by increasing mandatory federal funding for early learning and child care through the Child Care Entitlement to States.
- Head Start – An additional \$1.9 billion for the Head Start program (a total of at least \$14.17 billion). This investment is critical to ensure Head Start and Early Head Start are able to meet the needs of children, families, and communities, specifically to sustain and expand access for eligible children and families; recruit and retain the qualified teachers and staff needed to support children and their development; allow programs to address pressing local needs, including long-overdue repair, maintenance, and renovation of facilities; and award competitive grants for locally-designed program options including through Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships.
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C and Part B, Section 619 – An additional \$392 million for early intervention services provided under the IDEA Part C (a total of \$932 million) and \$83 million for preschool special education services under IDEA Part B, Section 619 (a total of \$503 million). Early Intervention provides critical support for the health and well-being of infants and toddlers with delays and disabilities, while special education preschool services help children with disabilities ages three through five get the support they need to succeed in school. Federal investments in both IDEA Part C and Part B, Section 619 have failed to match increases in the number of children served, as well as the cost of inflation. Consequently, both programs have experienced significant erosion of funding over the last two decades, which has caused financial constraints at the state level that have impacted access to services for children

with disabilities.

- Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five (PDG B-5) – Robust funding for the PDG B-5 program to continue the work underway in states and territories to maximize parent choice and knowledge of the mixed delivery system; support sharing of best practices among providers to improve collaboration and efficiency of programs; and improve program quality. Through PDG B-5, Congress has the unique opportunity to foster state-led early learning initiatives, helping them build strong, effective infrastructure of early learning and child care for working families. Nearly every governor across the country has supported and approved state applications for this funding.
- Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) – Robust funding for the CCAMPIS program, which helps low-income student parents enrolled in higher education access child care. CCAMPIS provides child care services through students' own institution, by contracting with community partners, or by offering subsidies so parents can choose the child care provider that best meets their needs. More than 20% of all undergraduate students are raising children, but at current funding and award levels, the program is only able to support a very small fraction of the student parents who rely on child care to succeed in school.

We appreciate your commitment to empowering families and strengthening America's economy through policies that work for parents, children, and employers. We welcome the opportunity to work with your Administration on fulfilling its commitment to America's families. Thank you for your work to advance the early learning and child care solutions they need.

Sincerely,

Child Care Aware of America

Early Care & Education Consortium

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

First Children's Finance

First Five Years Fund

Learning Care Group

Mission: Readiness

Moms First

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Save the Children

Start Early

TOOTRiS