

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to respectfully request that you provide robust funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

We recognize the need to direct taxpayer resources to programs that demonstrate a strong return on federal investment. Quality child care programs—which have strong evidence of success—play a crucial role in supporting children's healthy development, learning, and school readiness, while also enabling parents to work, train, or pursue educational advancement. As cost of living concerns and affordability remain top-of-mind for many families, we must continue to sustain federal investment in CCDBG, which helps more than a million families each year afford quality child care for their families. By providing access to affordable, high-quality child care, CCDBG improves future opportunities for children while also empowering parents to choose the child care that best fits the needs of their family. In alignment with President Trump's *Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families* Executive Order, CCDBG allows parents to choose the best educational setting for their children, including child care centers, family child care homes, or faith-based programs.

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

For years, families at every income level have struggled to find high-quality care, yet only 14 percent of eligible young children receive support through the CCDBG program.¹ Child care providers, many of whom are small business owners, operate on razor-thin margins while contending with workforce shortages, resulting in a limited supply of care for working families.

Lack of access to child care inhibits the economic success of parents and employers alike. Polling from First Five Years Fund has found that child care is widely viewed as an affordability issue. In a recent poll, eighty percent of voters said that the ability of working parents to find and afford child care is in a “state of crisis” or a

¹ <https://www.ffyf.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2025-National-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

“major problem.”² In addition, recent polling among rural Americans found that twenty percent of rural parents said they are putting off having more children because child care is so expensive.³

Additionally, a recent report by ReadyNation indicates that insufficient access to child care costs working parents up to \$134 billion per year in lost earnings, businesses up to \$38 billion per year in lost productivity, and taxpayers up to \$37 billion per year in lost revenue, for a total economic impact of \$172 billion each year.⁴ Given the importance of child care to working families across the country and the fundamental role it plays in supporting our economy, there is a critical need for robust CCDBG funding.

Congress has continued to make bipartisan investments in CCDBG year after year, including a historic investment under the first Trump Administration that was the largest increase in funding up to that point. These investments have helped states meet critical quality and safety standards, take steps toward decreasing costs for parents, reduce waitlists, and support local providers. However, there is still work to do to ensure more eligible, hardworking families can afford the child care they rely on to go to work. As Congress continues working to ensure parents have a wide range of choices to meet their child care needs, we encourage you to prioritize funding for CCDBG and increase access to quality care for working families across the country.

Child care is the linchpin of our country’s economy, helping to improve parents’ job stability and overall financial security, setting children on a path to success, and supporting economic growth. For these reasons, we urge you to include robust funding for CCDBG in the FY2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We hope to continue to work with you to support investments in quality child care that advance the President’s vision of educational opportunity as the appropriations process moves forward this year.

Sincerely,



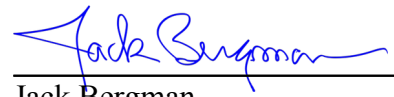
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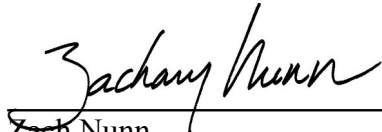
² <https://www.ffyf.org/resources/2026/02/first-five-things-2026-national-poll/>

³ <https://www.ffyf.org/2025/09/29/ruralpoll2025/>

⁴ <https://www.instituteforchildsuccess.org/cost-child-care-crisis/>



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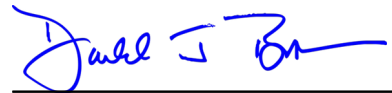
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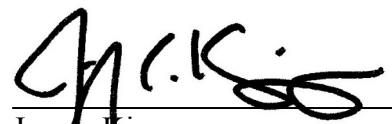
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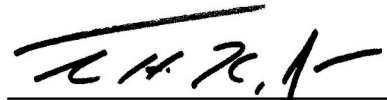
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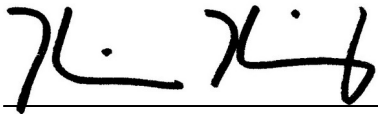
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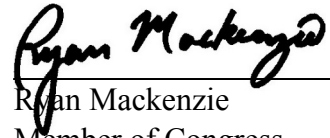
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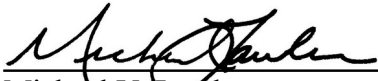
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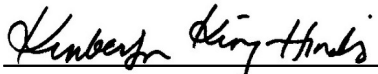
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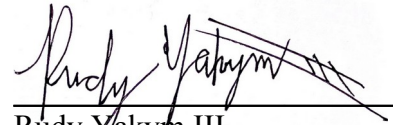
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