

November 1, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Majority  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi,

We write in strong support of the child care and pre-kindergarten provisions in the Build Back Better plan. The historic investment and policies outlined in the framework would support the transformative work of building a strong, stable early childhood education system that is affordable and accessible to families in new and critical ways. These policies will:

- Lower child care costs for more than 90 percent of families with young children
- Guarantee high quality child care choices for parents by expanding the supply of safe, nurturing options particularly for infants and toddlers
- Create and support millions of jobs, including for early educators and parents
- Raise the wages of early educators - 95 percent of whom are women and disproportionately women of color - to at least a living wage, with wages comparable to elementary school educators for those with similar credentials
- Provide universal pre-kindergarten for three- and four-year olds in diverse settings that meet families' needs; and
- Support children's healthy development, ensuring that regardless of economic status, race, zip code, language, or ability all children have a strong foundation.

The pandemic brought to light how essential child care and early learning are to our country, while also revealing profound flaws. The bottom line is that America's existing child care market is unsustainable. Most parents can't afford the price of care, while too many Americans live in areas without access to quality care options at all. Further, providers can only charge what families in their area can afford, which often translates to near-poverty wages for early educators. Addressing these present and ongoing challenges requires a comprehensive approach to securing ample child care supply and capacity, while ensuring there are quality options available for families when and where they need them.

The child care provisions in the Build Back Better package are an economic, political, and gender and racial justice imperative. Women's labor force participation is at its lowest level since 1988, with lack of care options comprising a significant barrier. Small businesses are feeling the crunch, with over half (55 percent) of small business owners surveyed stating that the lack of affordable, high-quality child care for employees has had a negative impact on their

business. Young children of color and those in families with low incomes are less likely to have access to affordable and high-quality care that can help them thrive developmentally. And these investments consistently poll as a high priority for the vast majority of voters: Democrats, Independents, and Republicans.

The policy before Congress today will lower the cost of child care and provide pre-kindergarten for millions of families while investing in the higher wages and professional development needed to ensure high quality care for all participants. Families will have a range of center-based, home-based, family child care, school-based, and Head Start options that work best for them. Families will start to feel these changes right away as the system stabilizes in ways that help all families, while those most in need receive financial assistance, and states build their supply of child care, addressing the urgent shortage of slots holding back our economic recovery.

Fifty years after President Nixon's veto of comprehensive child care reform, we are at the cusp of a turning point for a just and equitable child care and early learning system. This is the moment where we take the closest step yet to realizing the first ever early care and education guarantee. It's time to set families up for success and set up early care and education to be a valued and highly desired, long-term career path - our economic prosperity depends on it. We look forward to working with you to enact and implement these policies across the United States.

Sincerely,

&Mother

Acre Family Child Care

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.

Action for Children

Advocates for Children of NJ

Agenda for Children

All Our Kin

Alliance for Quality Education

American Association of University Women

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Federation of Teachers

Apple Orchard School

Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children

Arizona Early Childhood Alliance

Arizona Early Childhood Education Association  
Arizona Head Start Association  
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families  
Barb's Big Backyard Daycare  
Birth In Color RVA  
Boston College Center for Optimized Student Support  
BUILD Initiative  
Busy Bees Preschool Center, Inc.  
CACFP Roundtable  
California Association for the Education of Young Children  
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network  
California Family Child Care Network  
Caring Across Generations  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Centers for New Horizons  
Charlestown Nursery School  
Child & Family Resources  
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles  
Child Care Aware of Minnesota  
Child Care Aware of WA  
Child Care Aware® of America  
Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.  
Child Care Council of Westchester  
Child Care Law Center  
Child Care Resource Network  
Child Care Services Association/T.E.A.C.H. National Center  
Child Development Support Corporation  
Child Tools Consulting  
Child Welfare League of America  
Childhaven  
Children & Families of Iowa

Children at Risk  
Children First  
Children First of Granby  
Children Now  
Children Services of Roxbury  
Children Unlimited - Family Connections Resource Center  
Children's Action Alliance  
Children's Advocacy Alliance  
Children's Aid  
Children's Campaign Fund  
Children's Council of San Francisco  
Children's Funding Project  
Children's Home & Aid  
Children's Home Society of Washington  
Children's Institute  
Children's Trust Fund Alliance  
Citizen Action of New York  
Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc.  
Clayton Early Learning  
Common Good Iowa  
Commonwealth Children's Fund  
Community Change  
Community Change Action  
Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County, Inc  
Coos Coalition for Young Children & Families  
Corrine's Little Explorers  
Country Kids Child Care LLC  
Country Kids Family Day Care  
Cribs and Cradles Child Care LLC  
Cricket's Corner Learning Center  
Crystal Stairs, Inc.  
CT Early Childhood Alliance

District of Columbia Association for the Education of Young Children  
Early Care & Learning Council  
Early Edge California  
Early Learning Child Care Inc.  
Early Opportunities  
East Boston Social Centers  
Educare Learning Network  
Edward Street  
Elisabeth Amen Nursery School at Wheaton College Massachusetts  
Engaged Latino Parents Advancing Students Outcomes  
EveryChild California  
Executives Partnering to Invest in Children  
Fairbanks Montessori School  
Faith Lutheran Child Care Center  
Family Child Care Alliance of Maryland  
Family Forward Oregon  
Farm Hands Preschool  
First 5 Los Angeles  
First Children's Finance  
First Five Years Fund  
First Up  
Fitchburg Loves the Children  
Florida Policy Institute  
Fond du Lac Area United Way  
G3 Transformation  
GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students  
Georgia Association for the Education of Young Children  
Golden Corridor Association for the Education of Young Children  
Granite State Organizing Project  
Greater Franklin Area Family Resource Center  
Groundwork Ohio  
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!

Health Care for America Now  
Hilltop Children's Center  
Hollys Little Red Wagon Childcare  
Hoosier Action  
Housman Institute LLC  
Illinois Action for Children  
Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children  
Imagine That  
Impact Monadnock  
Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children  
Innovative Playhouse  
Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children  
Iowa Women's Foundation  
Jack and Jill Center  
Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice  
Jewish Federation of Chicago  
John F. Kennedy Family Services  
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies  
Jumpstart  
Kanawha Valley National Organization for Women  
Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children  
Kentucky Center for Economic Policy  
KEYS 4 HealthyKids  
Kidango, Inc.  
Kids Included Together  
Kids Win Missouri  
Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership  
Latino Chamber of Commerce of SEW  
Let's Grow Kids  
Lincoln Nursery School  
Lindenwood Child Care  
Lionheart Early Learning

Lisa's Little Ones  
Little People Nursery School  
Little Star of Ours  
Los Angeles Women's Collective PAC  
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children  
Low Income Investment Fund  
M & M Sweet Child Care  
Magic Garden Children's Center  
Main Street Alliance  
Main Street Alliance - West Virginia  
Main Street Alliance - Wisconsin  
Maine Association for the Education of Young Children  
Maine Children's Alliance  
Maryvale  
Massachusetts Head Start Association  
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership  
Michigan Association for Young Children  
Milford Family & Community Network CFCE  
Milford Thrives  
Milwaukee Succeeds  
Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children - Minnesota School Age Care Alliance  
Minnesota Child Care Association  
Minnesota Prenatal to Three Coalition  
Mirza  
MomsRising  
Montana Association for the Education of Young Children  
Montana Head Start Association  
Morgantown NOW  
Mother Hubbard Pre-School Center  
National Association for Family Child Care  
National Association for the Education of Young Children

National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of Social Workers WV  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women Central Ohio Chapter  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Employment Law Project  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
National Women's Law Center  
National Workforce Registry Alliance  
NC Child  
NC Early Education Coalition  
Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children  
Neighborhood Villages  
Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children  
New Horizon Academy  
New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children  
New Life Discovery Schools, Inc.  
New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children  
Northern Directors Group  
Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children  
Oklahoma Association for Education of Young Children  
One City Schools  
Open Center for Children  
Oregon Community Foundation  
Otter Creek Child Center  
Oxfam America  
Paladin  
Palmer LifeWays  
Parent Voices CA



Parent Voices SF  
Parents For Healthy Homes  
Parents in Tech Alliance  
ParentsTogether Action  
Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children  
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children  
Planned Parenthood South Atlantic  
Poligon Education Fund  
POWER-PAC IL  
PRE4CLE  
Prevent Child Abuse NY  
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence  
Pro-Choice Oregon  
Pro-Choice Washington  
Progress North  
Project Matriarchs  
Promise The Children Inc.  
Reach Dane  
RESULTS  
Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children  
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT  
RIght from the Start Campaign  
Rodel  
Roger L & Lisa K Krakoff Family Foundation  
Rural WI Health Cooperative  
SAFE Haven of Racine  
SAL Family and Community Services  
Save the Children  
Save the Children Action Network  
SchoolHouse Connection  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy  
Service Employees International Union

Share Our Strength  
Shma Koleinu/Hear Our Voices  
Simply Giggle Montessori 4k  
Skip-a-Long  
South Carolina Program for Infant/Toddler Care  
Southwest Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children  
Spartan Day Camp LLC  
Start Early  
Stepping Stones Early Education and Child Care  
Stone Strategies  
Strategies for Children  
Stronger Together Fox Valley  
Sunbeam Early Learning Center  
Supermajority  
Taylor Tots Childcare Center, Inc  
Teaching Strategies  
TEAM for WV Children  
Temple Beth Shalom  
Texans Care for Children  
Texas Association for the Education of Young Children  
The Business Council, Inc.  
The Care Institute  
The Children's Agenda  
The Children's Garden Nursery School  
The Connecticut Association for Human Services  
The Education Trust  
The Family Cooperative  
The Family Resource Center  
The Latino Chamber of Dane County  
The Ohio Women's Public Policy Network  
The Registry  
The Sharon Cooperative School, Inc.

Think Babies™ NC Alliance  
thread  
TIME'S UP Now  
Tiny Trees Preschool  
Tiny Tykes, Inc. - Battle Lake  
Trans Empowerment Project  
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council  
Trust for Learning  
Trying Together  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Parent Leaders Action Network  
United South End Settlements  
United State of Women  
United Way Manitowoc County  
United Way of Central Iowa  
United Way of Greater Nashua  
United Way of King County  
United Way of Pennsylvania  
United Way of Salt Lake  
United Ways of Iowa  
Utah Association for the Education of Young Children  
Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children  
Virginia Early Childhood Foundation  
Virginia Promise Partnership  
Viroqua Children's House Montessori Preschool, LLC  
Voices for Virginia's Children  
Washington State Parent Ambassadors  
Wellesley Centers for Women  
West Central Initiative  
West Parish Family School  
West Virginia Association for Young Children  
West Virginia CASA Association Inc

West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy  
West Virginia Council of Churches  
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care  
WI Nature Action Collaborative for Children  
Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health  
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Wisconsin Child Care Administrator Association  
Wisconsin Chinese Chamber of Commerce  
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association  
Wisconsin Head Start Association  
Wonderful World of Children  
Worcester Child Development Head Start/WPS  
Worcester Together For Kids Coalition  
WV Working Families Party  
Wyoming Kids First  
Yahara River Learning Center  
Young Horizons  
YWCA USA  
Zero to Five Montana  
ZERO TO THREE