

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

Alabama Partnership 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
Contra Costa
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 Focus Campaign for Children
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
Nurtury Early Education
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
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