

Via email

February 1, 2018

Dear Senators and Representatives,

The Child Care and Early Learning Coalition urges you to increase funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant by \$2.9 billion in the FY 2018 appropriations bill as proposed by the Democratic leadership. This substantial investment in access to high-quality child care will help parents work, boost the well-being of children, and make our economy stronger.

This increase will ensure that states have the resources they need to implement the provisions in the 2014 bi-partisan reauthorization of CCDBG that will bolster the quality and safety of child care and help families more easily access help in paying for child care. The new funds will also allow nearly 230,000 additional children to receive child care assistance giving low- income parents financial help to afford high-quality child care so they can succeed at work; help to fund salaries needed to attract and retain well-qualified child care professionals; and give children the early learning experiences they need to succeed in school and in life and to become productive members of the future workforce.

This funding increase is sorely needed and long overdue. Currently, five out of six children eligible for child care assistance do not receive help. The number of children receiving assistance has been steadily declining over the past several years due to insufficient federal funding and is at the lowest point in the program's history. Only two states are able to pay providers at the federally recommended payment rate.

We urge you to lift the budget caps on non-defense discretionary spending set forth in the Budget Control Act, and provide a proportionate increase in funding to the L-HHS-Ed bill allowing the \$2.9 billion increase for CCDBG, as well as allow increases for other important education and health programs.

We look forward to working with you to make this investment that would benefit our children, our families, and our country.

Sincerely,

AFSCME  
Afterschool Alliance  
American Federation of Teachers  
Center for Community Change Action  
Child Care Aware® of America  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Leadership Council  
CLASP  
Common Sense Kids Action

Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)  
Early Care and Education Consortium  
Easterseals  
Every Child Matters  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)  
Jumpstart  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)  
Make it Work  
MomsRising  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
National Association of Early Childhood State Specialists in State Departments of Education  
National Association of Family Child Care  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
National Black Child Development Institute  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Human Services Assembly  
National Indian Child Care Association  
National Women's Law Center  
Partnership for America's Children  
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United  
RESULTS  
Service Employees International Union  
Teaching Strategies  
Voices for Progress  
YWCA USA  
ZERO TO THREE