

# SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESS



Dear Representative [Insert Member's last name]:

I am writing to urge you to support and cosponsor H.R. 3829, the Child Care Accountability and Responsibility Act, introduced by Rep. Gwen Moore, to require a background check for child care providers to ensure that children in child care are safe.

**State the position you would like your representative to take.**

The federal law setting child care guidelines for the states do not require a background check for child care providers. As a result, state background check requirements vary greatly. Only half the states require a background check including fingerprints. Only 11 states require child care center workers to have a comprehensive background check: a fingerprint check against state and federal records, as well as a check of the state child abuse registry and sex offender registry. The only way to make sure that convicted felons are not licensed or paid to care for children is through a background check that uses fingerprints. A name check only is simply not effective.

**Introduce the issue in general terms.**

I want to know that my child is safe in child care and that no one with a history of violent crimes, including sex offenders, is licensed to care for my child or working in a child care center.

**Be specific about why you feel the way that you do about the issue. Suggest alternative actions where appropriate.**

[Insert information about your personal experiences, what you see as the major child care problems and needs in your community, and why you feel this bill will help or hinder your state's efforts.]

**Provide information about how the issue affects your local community.**

Again, I urge you to support and cosponsor H.R. 3829, the CARE for Kids Act, introduced by Rep. Gwen Moore, to protect our most vulnerable population, our children. Thank you for your efforts to ensure children are safe in child care.

**Restate the position that you would like your representative to take.**

Sincerely,

**Include your address for a response.**

[Your Name]  
[Your Address]