

February 2, 2021

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

As organizations representing child care providers, child and family advocates, and parents across the country, we write to express our sincere gratitude for prioritizing \$40 billion in dedicated child care relief funds in the American Rescue Plan. This proposal, if enacted, would provide urgently needed relief to child care providers and families who have faced dire financial circumstances during the pandemic. This support is especially essential for families and providers of color, whose communities have been deeply harmed by the COVID-19 crisis.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, child care providers in homes and centers across the country have risen to the challenge of caring for children of essential workers and those called back to work all while also caring for their own families. Our country's ability to fight the pandemic and recover the economy depends on parents having access to child care and the 2 million child care providers--virtually all women and disproportionately women of color--who form the backbone of our economy. Yet, the absence of sufficient federal relief funds to date has forced many child care providers to close their doors permanently and sent others into debt as they try to stay afloat.

The American Rescue Plan offers a much-needed path forward to save the child care sector from collapsing, support the essential workers who are early childhood educators, and help parents pay for child care. With [56 percent of child care providers](#) losing money to stay open and [700,000 parents with young children leaving the workforce](#), it is clear that relief cannot come soon enough. Moreover, the constellation of supports for families that will cut child poverty in half-- from direct financial assistance to nutrition assistance to paid family and medical leave-- will finally make headway in reversing our country's unacceptably high child poverty rates, a particularly important outcome for our youngest children during their years of greatest brain development.

We commend your leadership in identifying how to provide immediate relief to child care providers and parents. We know this is a first step and look forward to working with your Administration to build a child care system that provides quality, affordable, and equitable child care for families and compensation for child care providers that reflects the skilled, valuable, and essential nature of their work.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Child Care Aware® of America  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Community Change Action  
Early Care and Education Consortium  
First Five Years Fund  
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)  
National Women's Law Center  
Save the Children Action Network  
The Education Trust  
United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)  
ZERO TO THREE

## State Organizations

Advocates for Children of New Jersey  
Alabama Institute for Social Justice  
Alaska Children's Trust  
Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children  
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families  
California Association for the Education of Young Children  
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network  
Cape & Islands Common Start Chapter/Coalition for Social Justice  
Child Care Aware® of Missouri  
Child Care Aware® of Washington  
Child Care Services Association (North Carolina)  
Children's Advocacy Alliance (Nevada)  
Children's Alliance (Washington)  
Children's Institute (Oregon)  
Children's Village (Pennsylvania)  
COFI & Power-PAC Illinois  
Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children (COAEYC)  
Colorado Children's Campaign  
Committee for Hispanic Children & Families (CHCF) (New York)  
Common Good Iowa  
Commonwealth Children's Fund (Massachusetts)  
Concord Children's Center (Massachusetts)  
Connecticut Association for Human Services  
Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CTAEYC)  
Connecticut Voices for Children  
CT Early Childhood Alliance  
Delaware AEYC  
District of Columbia Association for the Education of Young Children  
Early Care & Learning Council (New York)  
East Boston Social Centers  
ECE On The Move (New York)  
Florida Association for the Education of Young Children  
GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students  
GoAEYC- Golden Corridor Association for the Education of Young Children (Illinois)  
Graduate Center for the Study of Early Learning (Mississippi)  
Groundwork Ohio  
Hawai'i Children's Action Network  
Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children  
Illinois Action for Children  
Illinois AEYC  
Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IN AEYC)  
Kansas Action for Children  
Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children  
Kentucky Youth Advocates  
Kids Win Missouri

Let's Grow Kids (Vermont)  
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children  
Massachusetts (MAAEEYC)  
Maine Association for the Education of Young Children  
Maine Children's Alliance  
Maryland Family Network  
Maryland AEYC (MDAEYC)  
Michigan AEYC  
Michigan's Children  
Minnesota Prenatal to Three Coalition  
Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children  
NC Child  
Nebraska AEYC  
New Futures Kids Count (New Hampshire)  
New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children  
Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children  
Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness  
Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children  
Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children  
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children  
Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children  
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT  
Right from the Start Campaign (Rhode Island)  
Rodel (Delaware)  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy (New York)  
SDAEYC and United Way of the Black Hills (South Dakota)  
South Carolina AEYC  
SPACES In Action (District of Columbia)  
Strategies for Children (Massachusetts)  
TEAM for West Virginia Children  
Texans Care for Children  
Texas Association for the Education of Young Children  
The CAYL Institute (Massachusetts)  
The Children First Center (Massachusetts)  
The Wisconsin Partnership  
United South End Settlements (Massachusetts)  
Utah Association for the Education of Young Children  
Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children  
Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children  
Virginia Early Childhood Foundation  
Voices for Virginia's Children  
West Central Initiative (Minnesota)  
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA)  
WNY Women's Foundation (New York)  
Wyoming Kids First  
Zero to Five Montana