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 (MAAEYC)
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