

September 15, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman,
U.S. House Education and the Workforce Committee
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As President of the Early Learning Policy Group, I am writing to express my strong support for the bipartisan, bicameral legislation to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

The reality of today's economy is that working parents depend on child care in order to support their families. Nearly 11 million children under age 5 with working mothers spend time every week in some type of child care setting. Families, regardless of income, have trouble finding quality child care.

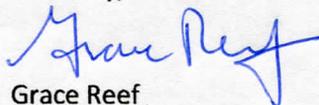
Child care policies vary greatly by state and until this legislation, there were no minimum health and safety protections for children. The CCDBG Reauthorization Act is truly historic. For the first time, federal policy will support the safety of children in child care by ensuring that licensed providers and those receiving a subsidy to care for low income children will be subject to a comprehensive background check, that programs will be inspected at least once a year, and that parents will have choices among quality settings through a stronger child care workforce and greater focus on activities that improve the quality of child care.

Children should be safe in child care. Parents should feel comfortable that when they choose child care for their children, providers have the training they need to offer settings that will promote the healthy development of children. The federal government should expect accountability from states that set child care policy so that federal money is not used to support unsafe or potentially harmful settings for low income children.

I wholeheartedly commend your efforts and dedication as well as the efforts of Ranking Member George Miller, Representative Todd Rokita, and Representative David Loebsack along with the efforts of the Senate HELP Committee leadership – Chairman Tom Harkin, Senator Lamar Alexander, Senator Barbara Mikulski, and Senator Richard Burr, for putting aside partisan ideology and politics to agree to common sense public policy improvements to support working families who need child care.

The CCDBG Reauthorization Act is a historic policy marker to enable parents to have quality child care choices in their community. Thank you for supporting working families with children.

Sincerely,



Grace Reef
President,
Early Learning Policy Group, LLC

<http://www.earlylearningpolicygroup.com/>