



Oklahoma Child Care
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, I am writing both in support of the bicameral, bipartisan Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act and to congratulate you for your leadership to ensure that our nation's child care policy is good for children.

Today, child care is a way of life for the majority of families. Yet in many communities, child care is hard to find, hard to afford, and too often of questionable quality. I was honored to testify at the hearing held on March 25, 2014 by the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Early Childhood. As I testified, my agency is a nonprofit organization that works statewide to assist parents in finding child care and to assist child care providers with training, technical assistance, and consultation to strengthen the workforce and the quality of child care programs.

As an organization on the ground that works with parents and providers every day, I am pleased to support the Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act, which will provide a much improved framework for states to make sure that children are safe in child care, in a setting that promotes their healthy development, and ensure that there is accountability for the use of federal funds.

I commend your leadership as well as the efforts of Representative George Miller, Representative Todd Rokita, and Representative David Loebsack, and your Senate counterparts – Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, Ranking Member Lamar Alexander, Senator Barbara Mikulski, and Senator Richard Burr, in pushing partisan politics aside to agree on legislation that is such good policy for children in child care.

Quality child care is critical for working families. However, parents can't have choices among quality settings unless children are safe and the child care workforce has the training they need to promote quality care. Thank you for supporting working families and for working to strengthen the quality of child care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula K. Koos".

Paula K. Koos
Executive Director
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