



Great Public Schools
for Every Student

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September 15, 2014

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the three million members of the National Education Association and the students they serve, we urge you to vote YES on the Child Care and Development Block Grant (S. 1086 as amended), which is on the suspension calendar for today. Votes associated with this bill may be included in the NEA Legislative Report Card for the 113th Congress.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program helps low-income working families and parents transitioning from welfare to work find safe, supportive, caring environments for their children. It is impossible to have successful early childhood education without good childcare options. Moreover, quality childcare options help ensure that children enter school ready to learn.

S. 1086 incorporates lessons learned from research and the states, improving the likelihood that more children will enter school ready to succeed, by:

- **Investing in the early childhood workforce.** The bill promotes workforce competency, training, and a progression of professional development designed to promote the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of children.
- **Focusing on early learning.** States would be required to develop or implement research-based, developmentally appropriate early learning and developmental guidelines for children.
- **Ensuring the health and safety of children served by the program.** The bill strengthens health and safety guidelines for child care providers.

S. 1086 is a good first step towards providing more comprehensive early learning opportunities for low-income children. We urge you to support it.

Sincerely,

Mary Kusler
Director, Government Relations