



September 15, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
U.S. House of Representatives
Chairman
Committee on Education &
The Workforce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
Ranking Member
Committee on Education &
The Workforce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Rokita
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Education &
The Workforce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dave Loebsack
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Education &
The Workforce
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline, Ranking Member Miller, Congressman Rokita, and Congressman Loebsack:

Nemours, a leading children's health system operating in the Delaware Valley and Florida, strongly supports S. 1086, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Reauthorization Act of 2014, with an Amendment. We appreciate the bipartisan, bicameral efforts to improve the Senate bill and your leadership in shepherding it through the House of Representatives.

In addition to our clinical care, Nemours works closely with community-based partners in Early Care and Education (ECE). We recognize the benefits of investing in quality improvement efforts, including providing professional development, training and technical assistance for ECE practitioners. Our experiences in early literacy, nutrition and physical activity, and family/parental engagement strategies underscores research that clearly shows the importance of the early years (birth-5) in a child's development and reaching his or her full potential in life.

Nemours enthusiastically supports S. 1086, as we believe it will create a solid foundation to increase access to and improve the quality of child care for families and children benefitting from the CCDBG program. In particular, we support 1) the strengthened health and safety training requirements, including the mandatory background check provisions; 2) the increase in the quality set-aside and the flexibility it provides to ECE professionals to achieve quality improvement; 3) the provisions, throughout the bill, promoting healthy eating and physical activity, family/parent engagement, and early language and literacy; and 4) the efforts to coordinate and align ECE programs within the state to ensure a comprehensive ECE system. Nemours believes that integrative approaches to childhood development will be essential to meeting the wide-ranging needs of our nation's youth.

Thank you again for your leadership in designing such a comprehensive approach to improving the quality of ECE settings. We look forward to continuing to work with you on efforts to improve the safety, health and well-being of our nation's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher J. Revere", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Christopher J. Revere, MPA
Director
Office of Child Health Policy & Advocacy