



September 15, 2014

The Honorable John Kline  
2439 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kline,

On behalf of Minnesota's Future Coalition, we are writing to urge you to reauthorize and strengthen the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which allocates funds to states for child care and sets the framework for state child care laws. CCDBG has not been updated since 1996.

**The House of Representatives is set to take action this week to reauthorize CCDBG to ensure that there are minimum protections for children, and increased support for families.**

Parents need child care in order to work, and our economy depends on working parents. However, too many families have difficulty finding and affording quality child care today. The proposed bill would add measures that will make the system better for working families and provide more continuity of care for their children, including a measure to expand the reauthorization period to a full year.

The proposed bill would also increase the focus on health and safety. All child care providers should have a comprehensive background check - which is currently required in only eight states - so that no one with a history of violent crimes will be caring for children. Child care programs should be inspected at least once a year, and results should be posted online so parents can be informed consumers.

Finally, the proposed bill puts a much larger focus on quality—supporting efforts to increase the quality of care and to communicate quality information to parents in ways that are both transparent and easy to access.

Minnesota's Future focuses on policy changes to *reform* early care and education programs, *realign* public resources to meet quality standards and provide needed *resources* to build quality and increase access to high quality early learning experiences. We hope we can count on your support for this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

**Minnesota's Future:**

Child Care Aware of Minnesota  
Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children (MnAEYC)  
Minnesota School-Age Care Alliance (MnSACA)  
Minnesota Child Care Association  
Minnesota Head Start Association  
Parents as Teachers  
Think Small