



Strengthening Christian Schools

Equipping Christian Educators

Worldwide

September 15, 2014

The Honorable John Kline, Chairman
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG)

Dear Chairman Kline,

I am writing to express our support for your Committee's bipartisan reauthorization of the CCDBG. A chief concern for the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) has been that the CCDBG ensure parents continue to have the capacity to choose from a broad diversity of delivery models – including faith-based models – in early education. We have been encouraged by the efforts to ensure faith-based early education participation as part of that diversity.

One advantage of the CCDBG is that it gives low-income families access to the faith-based early education options they often choose when given the opportunity. The Senate bill included amendments to ensure those choices. We appreciate that under your leadership the Committee responded so openly to those same concerns by strengthening still further CCDBG's parental choice provisions.

ACSI's interest in these issues stems from its founding as a nonprofit, non-denominational, religious association providing support services to nearly 24,000 Christian schools in over 100 countries. ACSI serves 3000 Christian preschools, elementary, and secondary schools; and 100 post-secondary institutions in the United States. Member-schools educate some 5.5 million children around the world, including 825,000 in the U.S. of whom just under 120,000 are in early learning. ACSI accredits Protestant pre-K – 12 schools, provides professional development and teacher certification, and offers its member-schools high-quality curricula, student testing and a wide range of student activities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

P. George Tryfiates
Director for Government Affairs