

National Association for the Education of Young Children

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September 15, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

On behalf of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation's leading early childhood professional association for quality learning from birth through age 8, I want to thank you for the improvements for access and quality in the reauthorization legislation for the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

When families look for child care for their children, they have two questions in mind: What programs offer the high-quality approach best for my child, and what can we afford to pay? Each day, millions of families wonder how they will pay for child care and will their children be safe and learning in the child care that they select. Employers know that child care is important to a stable and productive workforce. Child care providers want training and professional development to serve children well, and a subsidy system that will support the cost of quality and continuity of care.

NAEYC is the nation's largest early childhood program accreditor, setting standards for high-quality programs. Many child care centers and schools seek NAEYC early childhood program accreditation and the U.S. military child care centers also strive to meet our standards. We are pleased to see more attention to the quality of children's experiences and ways to help providers meet and sustain standards for health, safety and children's learning. The promise of early childhood education depends on using the research we know about how children learn and develop and providing access to those early learning experiences for all young children. Your bill makes advances in delivering on that promise, and with the resources to implement these changes and to serve more children, we will come closer to our shared goal of healthy, learning children who are ready for success in school and life.

NAEYC is particularly pleased to see in the bill:

- support for quality and compensation improvements for the early childhood workforce;
- more focus on quality care for infants and toddlers at that crucial period of neurological development;
- consistency of care and assistance over a 12-month period;
- the use of child assessments in appropriate ways and explicit prohibition on inappropriate uses;
- more attention to health and safety in licensed and legally exempt from licensing providers; and
- an explicit mention of the use of the quality set aside funds for helping programs meet national accreditation standards of quality.

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We look forward to working with you for the additional discretionary and mandatory funding that will be needed to make high-quality programs affordable to a larger share of families and to help more early-childhood programs provide superior experiences.

Thank you again for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Rhian Evans Allvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rhian" being the most prominent.

Rhian Evans Allvin
Executive Director