



The National Child Care Association (NCCA) and its members welcome the recent developments regarding the bipartisan and bicameral agreement announced in Congress to reauthorize the Child Care & Development Block Grant Program (CCDBG). NCCA has worked tirelessly on this issue since the beginning of 2013 and we are pleased to see CCDBG pass Congress before the end of year. NCCA endorses the bill, which will greatly support the child care industry as a whole, especially private providers, and will allow families to fully explore a mixed-delivery system and seek out the best child care center for their children.

Despite the gridlock that has gripped Congress the past two years, this announcement speaks volumes to the significance of child care to our communities and its importance to legislators in both the House and Senate. NCCA has worked closely with all relevant stakeholders to raise awareness of private child care providers and the immense work they achieve each day. NCCA's current president, Linda Kostantenaco, spoke before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce earlier this year. Among the many points she addressed, Mrs. Kostantenaco emphasized the need for parental choice when choosing an appropriate child care facility, elaborating on the stresses of operating a private child care center, and the tremendous work private child care centers provide their local communities.

The bill to reauthorize CCDBG is the first in almost two decades and will benefit thousands of communities across the country. As a result of NCCA's advocacy, the bill will:

- Provide information to families on all available providers in their area, allowing families to choose the provider that is best for them and creating greater transparency within the industry.
- Allow private child care centers to receive reimbursements for subsidized children who miss days due to common illnesses, holidays, or other unforeseen events.
- Directs state funding towards providing business and technical assistance to private child care providers, alleviating burdensome administrative duties and allowing staff to focus on child care.

NCCA is proud to be a part of this monumental achievement and would like to thank its Congressional stakeholders for agreeing to sensible language that benefits private child care operators across the country. NCCA appreciates the opportunity to share its story and will continue to work on behalf of its 12,000 members to advance the interest of private child care providers.

For more information regarding NCCA, please visit: <http://www.nccanet.org/>

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## **THE NATIONAL CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION**

***“The voice of the licensed, private early childhood care and education community since 1987”***

The National Child Care Association (NCCA) is an alliance of private child care and early childhood education (ECE) providers and affiliated businesses dedicated to providing the highest quality services and products to children and families. As a professional trade association constituting the only voice of private providers, NCCA strives to place its membership at the forefront of the industry. NCCA is committed to offering the widest array of materials and services to parents and children alike to suit the needs of a vast and diverse nation. NCCA has over 12,000 members in all 50 states.

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