

April 17, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

As organizations that serve, represent, and advocate on behalf of children, youth, and families, we thank you for bringing much-needed relief to U.S. families by passing the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. There is more to be done to ensure that all children and families are able to weather the storm ahead.

As the nation navigates this public health and economic crisis, it is essential we ensure that all families are able to access the support they need to stay healthy and make ends meet. While the CARES Act was a strong start, we are deeply concerned that children in mixed-immigration status families (those with both citizen and noncitizen members) have been excluded from critical relief. These children comprise one in four of all children in the United States, and the vast majority are U.S. citizens. It is simply unacceptable to leave them out of the COVID-19 response. Doing so will not only put more children at risk of falling into poverty but also greatly undermine our nation's ability to overcome this crisis.

If we have learned anything from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is that we are stronger together and that our individual well-being is connected to that of our neighbors, regardless of the color of their skin or where they come from. The pandemic has also reinforced the importance of ensuring that every child has access to health care, housing, and food and that their parents are able to protect and provide for them. Thus, we support the passage of a fourth COVID-19 relief package that includes the following provisions:

- **Ensuring everyone has access to health care, including expanding emergency Medicaid so that coronavirus testing and treatment is available to everyone in the United States.** Children need their parents to be healthy in order to care for them, and no child or youth should have to go without potentially life-saving treatment. We must ensure that all people--whether they are a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holder, lawful permanent resident (regardless of date of entry), or undocumented immigrant--is able to access health care.
- **Permitting tax-paying "mixed-status" families to qualify for CARES Act payments.** U.S. citizen children and spouses who live in mixed-status immigrant families were unfairly excluded from receiving CARES Act economic support. As a result, 5.1 million children, more than 80 percent of whom are U.S. citizens, will be denied financial support to help their parents keep a roof over their heads and put food on the table. We must address this exclusion in future COVID-19 legislation so that *all* working families have access to financial relief.
- **Automatically extending the work authorizations of DACA recipients and TPS holders.** Over 500,000 American children under the age of 18 have parents who rely on DACA or TPS in order to work. Many DACA and TPS recipients are employed in health care or service industries and are "essential workers" during this pandemic. Congress should automatically extend their work permits so that they can continue to

fill critical positions and care for their families without an expiration date hanging over their heads.

- **Suspending immigration enforcement actions, including arrests, detentions, and deportations.** No family should be deterred from seeking critical assistance due to fears of immigration enforcement, which could subject them to infection in detention facilities and separation from their families. Research shows that detention or deportation of a parent has harmful developmental and psychological effects on children. During this national emergency, it is essential that immigration enforcement actions cease, including in sensitive locations like hospitals and other health care settings, and that no additional funding is provided for immigrant detention and deportation.
- **Halting implementation of the public charge rules and related regulations.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of State public charge rules have already resulted in eligible individuals and their children avoiding and disenrolling from critical health care and nutrition programs, out of fear that participation may compromise their immigration status. It is essential that these harmful regulations and others modeled in their likeness, like the Housing and Urban Development rule, which would restrict housing for mixed-immigration status families, are not implemented during a pandemic.
- **Ensuring all families have access to an adequate food supply.** Immigrants work hard on our nation's farms and in factories and restaurants. Without them, our food supply would be at risk. The least we can do is ensure that they can feed their families and that no child goes hungry, by expanding nutrition benefits like the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) and extending the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program through the summer of 2020.
- **Providing vital public information in multiple languages.** Language barriers should not stand in the way of parents accessing information to help their families get through this crisis, and children should not be forced to translate such important matters. Public health, housing, employment, and assistance information must be provided in multiple languages so that everyone can get the information they need to stay healthy and prosper.

The extent to which we emerge from this crisis a stronger and more united nation will depend largely on advancing policies that reach all members of our community, including those who are most vulnerable. Children in immigrant families--like all our children--are critical to our collective future, and we simply cannot exclude them from COVID-19 relief efforts.

Respectfully,

National Organizations

Abriendo Puertas/ Opening Doors
All Our Kin
Alliance for Early Success
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Federation of Teachers
American Psychological Association
Bright by Text
Campaign for Youth Justice
Center for Disability Rights
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Educare Lincoln
Educare Learning Network
First Focus on Children
Futures Without Violence
Healthy Teen Network
ImmSchools
InterReligious Task Force On Central America and Colombia
Justice for Migrant Women
Kids in Need of Defense
Legal Action Center
MALDEF
MomsRising
Montessori Public Policy Initiative
NAPAFASA
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Social Workers
National Crittenton
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Education Association (NEA)
National Employment Law Project
National Justice for Our Neighbors
National Juvenile Justice Network
Next100
Partnership for America's Children
Santa Fe Dreamers Project
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

The Children's Partnership
The Education Trust
The Ounce of Prevention Fund
UNICEF USA
UnidosUS
United Migrant Opportunity Services/UMOS Inc.
United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)
United Way of Miami-Dade/Educare Miami
United We Dream
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights
ZERO TO THREE

State Organizations

AAP Colorado
Advocates for Children of NJ
Alabama Arise
Alianza NORCO, CO
Arizona Center for Economic Progress
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
Asian Resources, Inc., CA
California WIC Association
Californians Together
Campesinos Sin Fronteras, AZ
Center for Public Policy Priorities, TX
Central American Resource Center, Washington DC
Centro Campesino, FL
Centro Hispano de East TN
Child and Family Policy Center, IA
Child Care Resources, WA
Child Care Services Association, NC
Childhaven, WA
Children Now, CA
Children's Action Alliance, AZ
Children's Defense Fund - CA
Children's Defense Fund - OH
Children's Defense Fund - NY
Children's Defense Fund - MN
Children's Defense Fund -TX
Children's Defense Fund's Southern Regional Office - MS

Children's Institute - OR
Cleveland Jobs with Justice, OH
COALITION FOR ASIAN AMERICAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, NY
Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), OR
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Jewish ECE Initiative
Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy, & Research Organization (CLLARO)
Community Action Marin, CA
Con Mi MADRE, TX
Conexion Americas, TN
Congreso de Latinos Unidos, PA
CRLA Foundation, CA
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, NY
DC Action for Children
Dominico American Society of Queens, NY
Early Edge California
East Coast Migrant Head Start Project
Economic Opportunity Institute, WA
Edu-Futuro, VA
Educare California at Silicon Valley
Educare DC
Educare Seattle, WA
El Colegio High School, MN
El Pueblo, Inc., NC
Esperanza Health Centers, IL
First 5 California
First 5 LA, CA
Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc.
Foundation for Tacoma Students, WA
Gads Hill Center, IL
GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students
Get Ready to Learn Kuna! Collaborative, ID
Greater Lawrence community Action Council, MA
Guadalupe Centers, MO
Gulf Coast Council of La Raza, TX
HANA Center, IL
Healthy Child Care Colorado
Hispanic Community Services, Inc., AR
Hispanic Services Council, FL
Hispanic Unity of Florida, Inc.
HOLA Ohio

Homeward Alliance, CO
Housing and Education Alliance, Inc., FL
Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children
Identity, Inc., MD
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illuminate Colorado
Immigrant Welcome Center, IN
Just Neighbors, VA
Justice For Our Neighbors Houston, TX
Juvenile Justice Coalition, OH
Kidango, CA
Kids Forward, WI
La Clinica del Pueblo, Washington DC
La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc., CA
La Paz Chattanooga, TN
La Unión Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), TX
Latin American Community Center, DE
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Latino Community Center, PA
Lawrence CommunityWorks, MA
League of Education Voters, WA
Louisiana Budget Project
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc., IN
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Mental Health America of Greater Dallas, TX
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, CA
Mexican American Unity Council, Inc., TX
Minnesota Budget Project
National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter
NC Child
NC Pediatric Society
Neighborhood House, WA
New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
New Mexico Voices for Children
New York State American Academy of Pediatrics (NYS AAP)
NM Pediatric Society
Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors
Northwest Side Housing Center, IL
NYS American Academy of Pediatrics

One Stop Career Center of PR Inc
OneAmerica, WA
Our Children Oregon
PA Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics
Parent Voices CA
Partners for Our Children, WA
POD2ER, TX
Project Vida, TX
Proyecto Azteca, TX
Public Citizens for Children and Youth, PA
PUENTE Learning Center, California
Puget Sound Educational Service District, WA
Ready Louisiana
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
San Antonio Region Justice For Our Neighbors, TX
Soar, WA
Southwest Women's Law Center, NM
Spring Institute for intercultural Learning
Stand for Children, IN
The California Children's Trust
The Economic Progress Institute
The Education Trust-West, CA
The Family Center/La Familia, CO
The Health Collaborative, TX
The Unity Council, CA
TODEC Legal Center, CA
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Voices for Utah Children
Washington Association for Infant Mental Health
Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP
Washington State Budget & Policy Center
Wellspring Family Services, WA
West Central Initiative, MN
White Center Parent Ambassadors, WA
Young Invincibles, TX