

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

The HEROES Act, introduced yesterday in the House, includes critical supports to stabilize families and communities -- including expansions in access to paid sick and family leave, getting cash to families, additional nutrition benefits, and investments in housing assistance -- yet the legislation falls woefully short on support for child care.

The investments provided in this bill for child care are not sufficient to meet the bill's goals of honoring our heroes, supporting families, safely reopening our economy, and restarting businesses. The HEROES Act provides only \$7 billion in dedicated funding for child care through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), far below what is needed. In fact, if spent immediately to address the full range of families', providers', and educators' needs, this funding level would not even cover a full month of estimated stabilization costs.

Previous investments, including the \$3.5 billion in the CARES Act for CCDBG, have been important in supporting states to take initial steps in stabilizing child care. At the same time, states need additional funding to meet the full range of needs in the child care sector for the duration of this crisis. Additional, specific, targeted funding of at least \$50 billion is needed to stabilize our child care system,¹ and the funding provided in the HEROES Act does not go far enough in providing the immediate relief critical for the survival of the industry.

The stakes are high if this level of relief is not provided. Our nation's child care system is on the brink of collapse, with serious implications both now and in the future. Already, we have seen job losses of over 330,000 child care workers², providers permanently shutting their doors, and families struggling to make child care payments while they lose jobs or income. Without sufficient relief, there will not be a child care system to return to as we look to rebound from this crisis. Parents, especially women, will not have the care they need to go back to work or school, employers will be unable to restart without workers, and our economic recovery will be jeopardized.

¹"Child Care is Key to Our Economic Recovery: What it will take to stabilize the system during this crisis," available here: <https://nwlc.org/resources/child-care-is-key-to-our-economic-recovery-what-it-will-take-to-stabilize-the-system-during-this-crisis/>

² U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), April 2020 Employment Situation Summary, Table B-1: Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail, available at: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t17.htm>.

While we are grateful for everything the HEROES Act does for families, we urge you to increase funding for child care to meet the needs of the child care sector and reflect the essential role it plays in supporting our public health response now and our recovery from this crisis. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

9to5

A Better Balance

African American Ministers In Action

All Our Kin

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Sustainable Business Council

AnitaB.org

BUILD Initiative

Caring Across Generations

Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Child Care Aware® of America

Children's Defense Fund

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Coalition of Labor Union Women

Community Change Action

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

Equal Rights Advocates

Family Values @ Work

First Focus Campaign for Children

Institute for Women's Policy Research

Jumpstart

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

Main Street Alliance

MANA, A National Latina Organization

MomsRising.org/MamásConPoder.org

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Black Child Development Institute

National Child Care Association

National Council of Jewish Women
National Military Family Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Law Center
Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC) United
Save the Children Action Network
Teaching Strategies
The Arc of the United States
The Education Trust
UltraViolet
United State of Women
YMCA of the USA
ZERO TO THREE