

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 2, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate
Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
U.S. Senate
Committee on Appropriations
304 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger, and Ranking Member Shelby:

As you negotiate a final appropriations package for fiscal year (FY) 2023, we respectfully urge you to include the highest possible funding amount for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). We appreciate that both the House Committee-passed Appropriations bill and Senator Murray's Democratic bill include a funding increase of \$1 billion above the FY 2022 enacted level for CCDBG—funding that would be a welcome down payment to ensure families can access affordable, high-quality child care. Given the critical needs of the sector, and the call by Members from both parties to significantly increase funding for child care, we urge Committee leadership to include the highest possible funding amount for CCDBG in a final package and to consider calls to double funding for CCDBG, providing a total funding increase of \$6.17 billion.

We greatly appreciate your bipartisan support for increasing funding for child care and early learning in recent years. Still, too many families are struggling to find and afford high-quality child care, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only magnified these challenges. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, only 16% of federally eligible children receive a child care subsidy.¹ Additionally, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are currently 100,000 fewer child care workers than there were before the pandemic, contributing to the nation's child care crisis.² The proposed \$1 billion funding increase for CCDBG passed by the House Appropriations Committee and proposed in the Senate Chairman's mark would be a critical down payment to allow states to sustain and expand services for children and families and to take steps to improve compensation for the child care workforce.

Additionally, we urge you to consider calls by Members of Congress and advocates to increase non-defense discretionary spending and double funding for CCDBG, providing a total funding

¹ *Fact Sheet: Estimate of Child care Eligibility and Receipt for Fiscal Year 2019*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, September 2022, <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1d276a590ac166214a5415bee430d5e9/cy2019-child-care-subsidy-eligibility.pdf>.


² *Why you Can't Find Child Care: 100,000 Workers are Missing*, New York Times, October 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/13/us/child-care-worker-shortage.html>.

level of \$12.3 billion. Even with the critical funding increase proposed by the House and by Senate Democrats, significant gaps remain to adequately meet the needs of children and families. The House recognized this last year when it passed historic increases in funding for child care and early learning through the Build Back Better Act. A doubling of CCDBG funding would dramatically increase the fraction of eligible children and families served, expand support for the child care workforce, and increase child care supply. By one estimate, if Congress were to double funding for CCDBG and use 80% of that funding on direct services, more than 800,000 additional children would be reached.³ Doubling CCDBG would also benefit our economy by increasing parents' labor force participation and boosting productivity.⁴

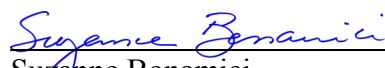
As you know, a large body of research finds that investments in high-quality child care are among the most fiscally responsible investments we can make, improving children's long-term outcomes and strengthening our economy. We were proud to vote for the child care relief provided through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), which has been essential to keeping the sector from total collapse and vital to our economic recovery. While crucial, these ARP funds are temporary, and they do not diminish the need for increased and sustained child care appropriations to address long-standing challenges, including a decline in child care providers, rising costs, and inadequate availability of subsidies to meet the needs of eligible children and families. For these reasons, we urge you to include the highest level of funding possible for CCDBG, and no less than the proposed increase of \$1 billion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to continue to improve our nation's child care sector.

Sincerely,




Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress




Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress





Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

³ Estimate provided by the Center for Law and Social Policy. The subsidy rate used in this calculation is based on the average monthly subsidy paid across care types and age groups based on the [FY 2019 CCDF data](#).

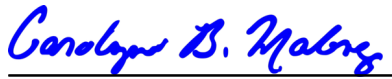
⁴ *Child Care Remains Central to an Equitable Recovery*, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, February 2022, <https://www.stlouisfed.org/on-the-economy/2022/feb/child-care-remains-central-equitable-recovery>.



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



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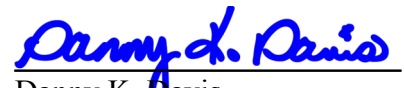

Carolyn B. Maloney
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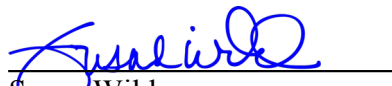

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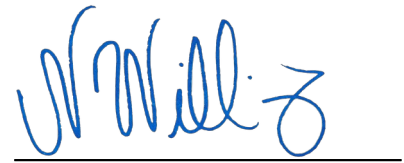

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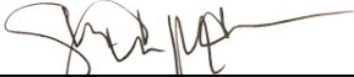

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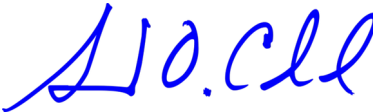
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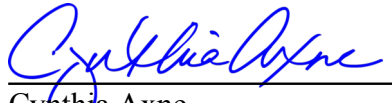
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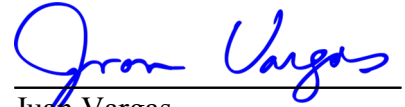
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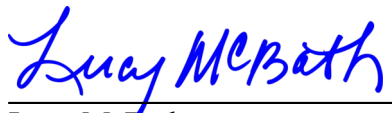
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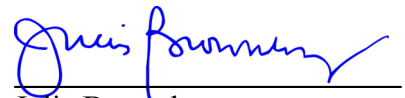
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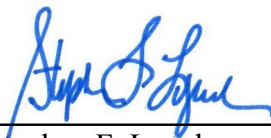
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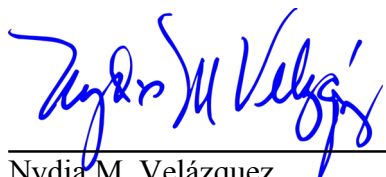
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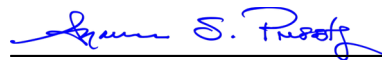
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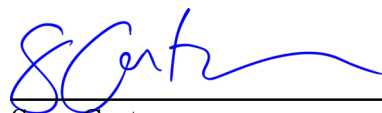
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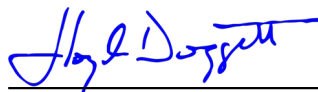
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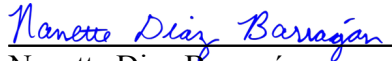
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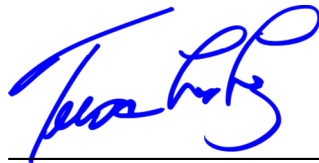
Katie Porter
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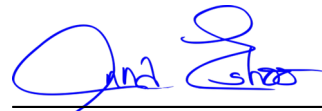
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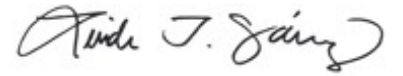
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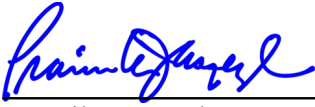
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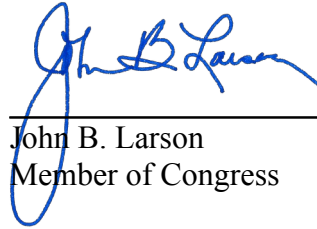
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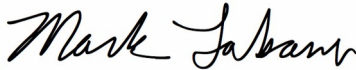
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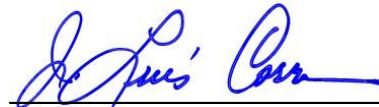
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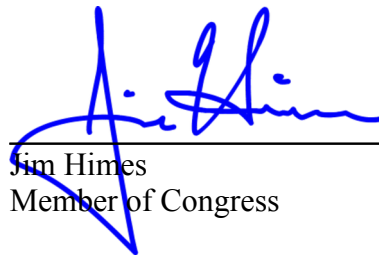
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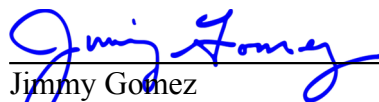
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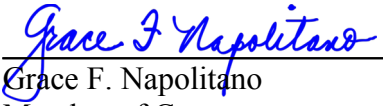
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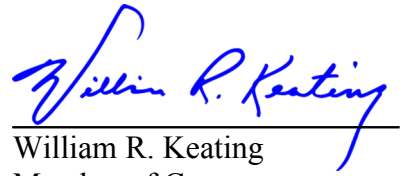
Jason Crow
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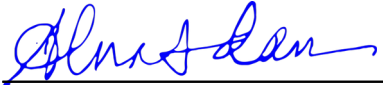
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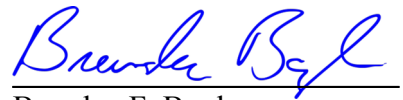
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Jared Huffman
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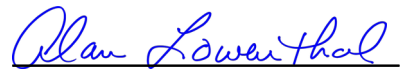
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Brendan F. Boyle
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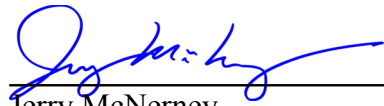
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Jerry McNerney
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Madeleine Dean
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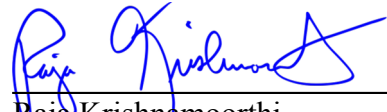
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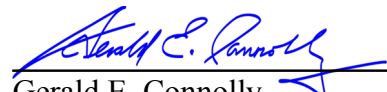
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Shontel M. Brown
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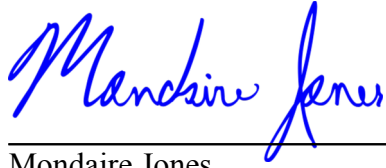
Gerald E. Connolly
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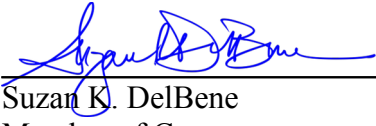
Marie Newman
Member of Congress



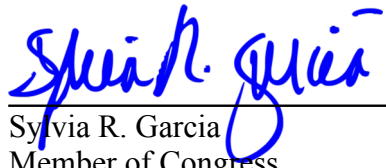
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress



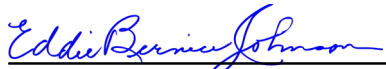
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