

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 23, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi:

As the Senate continues deliberations on a new economic reconciliation package, we write to express support for the recent Murray-Kaine proposal on child care and early learning investments and urge its inclusion in the reconciliation package. This new proposal will provide children and working families with critical support to access quality, affordable child care and give child care providers additional resources they so desperately need to help get our economy back on track. Leaving child care out of an upcoming reconciliation package is unacceptable. Parents, especially women, need this investment to get back to work, and employers need their workers to have reliable child care.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the child care industry has faced numerous and steep challenges in their work to adequately serve the population most affected by the pandemic. Families were forced to choose between staying home to care for their children or returning to the workforce and relying on inefficient or scarce alternatives. Furthermore, as inflationary pressures increase and families face rising child care prices, this proposal will allow parents, families, and child care workers to offset part of that burden. The funding will allow those parents who have been unable to rejoin the workforce an opportunity to continue their careers, make sure that their children are adequately cared for, and support the existing child care workforce.

Supporting the child care workforce is a matter of both economic and racial justice, as the House recognized when it passed a robust child care package in the Build Back Better Act. Data reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that caregivers earn an average of just \$12.24 per hour. And we know that the inadequate wages are disproportionately harmful to the women, and overwhelmingly women of color, who make up the care workforce. According to The Education Trust, Black child care workers earn an average of 78 cents less per hour than their white counterparts, even when controlling for education level. The investments in the Murray-Kaine proposal are long overdue updates that will provide these workers with better access to fair compensation and recognize the importance of their work.

We approve of the balanced approach in the proposal between strengthening existing programs and allowing for innovation. The Murray-Kaine plan will triple resources for the nation's existing child care assistance program, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). This funding would be available to every state, allowing parents and families across the country to access reliable and effective child care options. According to the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), more than 1 million new children and their families could receive child care assistance to lower their costs through the plan's CCDBG investment. Additionally, we support the proposal's dedicated funding for increasing wages for Head Start staff, expanding access to high-quality preschool, expanding the supply of high-quality child care, and improving compensation for the early childhood workforce—priorities supported in the House's Build Back Better Act.

We are also particularly supportive of the proposal's creation of a pilot program that allows some states to test a child care system in which a broader set of low- and middle-income families will not pay more than 7 percent of their income for child care for children under age six. This pilot will incentivize innovation and reform that is desperately needed in the field.

As parents look to return to the workforce and workers in all industries aim to deal with inflationary price increases, child care funding remains crucial to fostering a strong care and early education system and strengthening our economy. Thank you for your consideration of our request, we look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

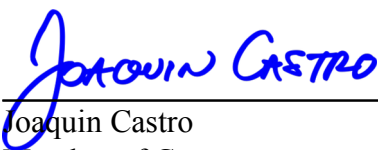
Sincerely,



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



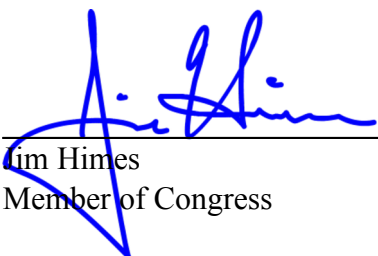
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



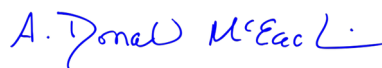
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



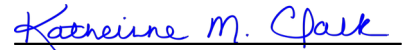
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



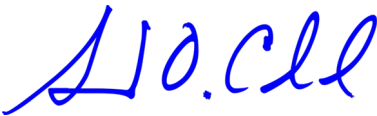
Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



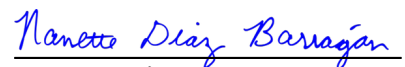
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



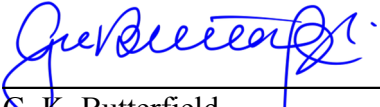
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Marie Newman
Member of Congress



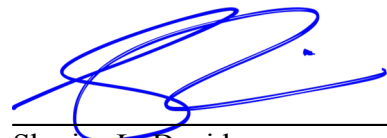
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



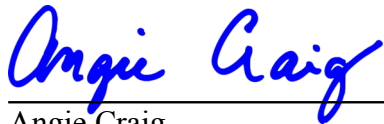
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress




Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



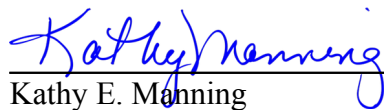
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Cynthia Axne
Member of Congress



Kathy E. Manning
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



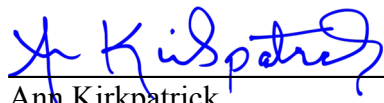
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



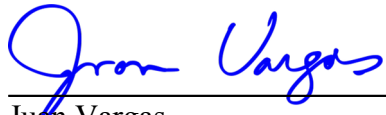
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress




Grace Meng
Member of Congress



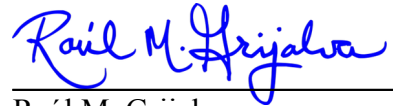
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



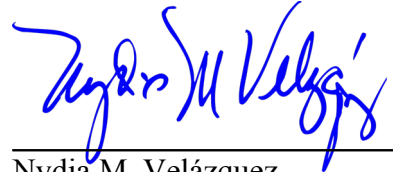
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



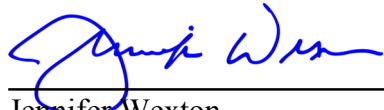
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



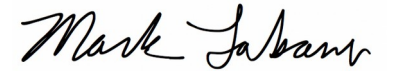
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



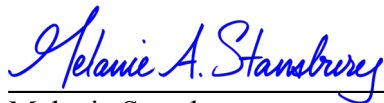
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



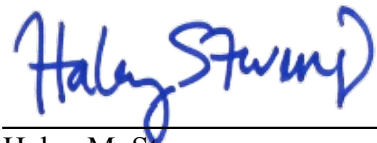
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



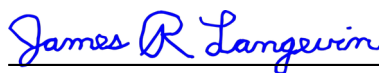
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



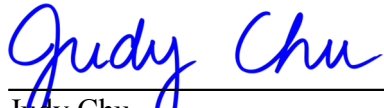
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



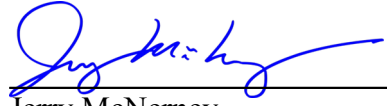
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



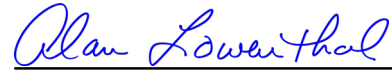
David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppberger
Member of Congress



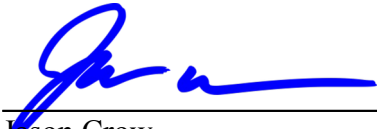
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Josh Harder
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



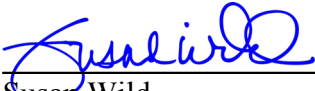
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



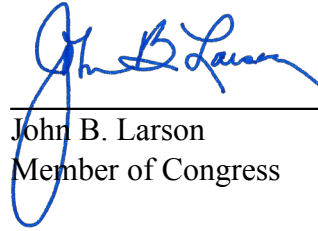
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



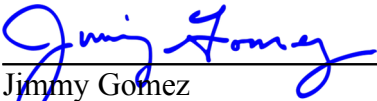
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



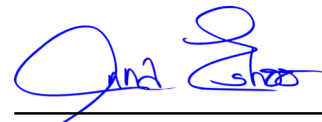
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



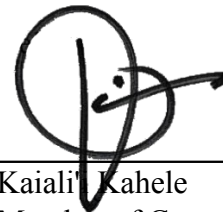
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



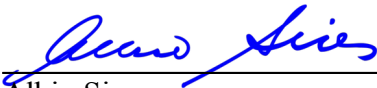
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Kaiuli Kahele
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Cc: Chair Patty Murray, Chairman Bobby Scott, and Senator Tim Kaine