

January 23, 2018

Dear Senator Baldwin,

We urge you to support the proposal to increase funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant by \$2.9 billion in the FY 2018 appropriations bill. This substantial investment in access to high-quality child care will help parents work, boost the well-being of children, and make our economy stronger.

Currently, Wisconsin families and child care providers are struggling. Our state is paying significantly below the federally recommended child care reimbursement rates for families eligible for this support.

This increase will ensure that states have the resources they need to implement the provisions in the 2014 bi-partisan reauthorization of CCDBG that will bolster the quality and safety of child care and help families more easily access help in paying for child care. The new funds will also allow nearly 230,000 additional children to receive child care assistance giving low-income parents financial help to afford high-quality child care so they can succeed at work; help to fund salaries needed to attract and retain well-qualified child care professionals; and give children the early learning experiences they need to succeed in school and in life and to become productive members of the future workforce.

In order to realize such a substantial investment in child care, it is critical that you support increasing the budgetary caps on domestic spending. Only by raising the caps and providing a proportionate increase in funding to the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill, can this increase in the CCDBG be achieved.

We look forward to working with you to make this investment that would benefit our children, our families, and our country.

Sincerely,



Ruth Schmidt

Executive Director, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

9 to 5 Wisconsin

American Federation of Teachers Local 212

BCDI (Black Child Development Institute) – Milwaukee, WI

Beyond Dane Chapter of Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

C.H.I.L.D. – Child Care Support Group, Oshkosh, WI

Encompass Early Care and Education, Inc., Green Bay

Feeding Wisconsin

Greater Milwaukee Chapter of Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

Green County Child Care Network

H.E.A.R.T. – Family Child Care Provider Support Group, Fox Cities

Kickapoo Conversations, Viroqua, WI

Kids Forward (formerly Wisconsin Council on Children and Families)

Lake Edge Board of Christian Outreach, Madison, WI

Linda and Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice and Sustainability, Verona WI

Little Turtles Playhouse, Beloit WI

Over

Madison Area Urban Ministry
Milwaukee Area Technical College
NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin Foundation
Penfield Children's Center, Milwaukee, WI
Start Smart of Brown County, WI
Stronger Together Fox Valley's Good Early Start Team
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
UW Cooperative Extension
WEA Trust
Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health
Wisconsin Child Care Administrator's Association
Wisconsin Community Action Program Association
Wisconsin Council of Churches
Wisconsin Counties Association
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Wisconsin Family Child Care Association
Wisconsin Head Start Association
Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association
Worker Justice Wisconsin
YWCA Madison