

United States Senate

August 5, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

We write today to urge you to prioritize the inclusion of the Child Care is Essential Act in the next Coronavirus supplemental package. In order for our economy to recover, and for working families to return to work, the next supplemental package must include at least \$50 billion in immediate child care stabilization funds and long-term investments to ensure access to quality, affordable child care for workers.

As we continue to navigate the devastating impacts of the pandemic, the National Association for the Education of Young Children estimates that 40% of child care providers expect they will close permanently without additional assistance.^[1] This would be devastating for children, families, child care providers, and businesses. Unfortunately, the CARES Act did not provide enough funds to stabilize the industry and the Paycheck Protection Program provided short-term relief to less than 6 percent of all child care providers.^[2] Child care is too essential to fail. The upcoming stimulus must invest in child care so that we can stabilize and secure American families and our economy.

The House passed the Child Care is Essential Act (H.R. 7027) in a bipartisan manner. This was a monumental first step. Including this bill as part of the upcoming stimulus package must be a top priority so that we can begin the hard work of rebuilding and revitalizing our future.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to supporting your efforts to provide for the future of America's children, economy, and early education and child care programs.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

^[1]https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/our-work/public-policy-advocacy/holding_on_until_help_comes.survey_analysis_july_2020.pdf

^[2]<https://bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/child-care-essential-to-economic-recovery-received-just-2-3-billion-in-ppp-funds/>

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed

Jack Reed
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Maggie Hassan

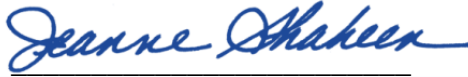
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



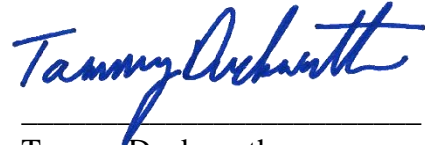
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

/s/ Martin Heinrich


Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator