

August 7, 2015
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

As organizations dedicated to building a high quality child care system that works for everyone, we urge you to support a [resolution](#), H Res 386, that was introduced by Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA), Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA), Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL), Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY), Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA), Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), Rep. Brenda Lawrence, Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA), Rep. Marcia Hahn (D-CA), Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA), Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL), Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), Rep. Donna Edwards (D-MD), Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL), and Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), to ensure guaranteed, affordable, high quality child care for all working families and a strong child care workforce.

In today's economy, the need for child care is a reality for the vast majority of families, yet high quality child care is out of reach for far too many working parents. For a parent with two children—an infant and a four year old—the average cost of center-based child care exceeds the average cost of rent in every state. The lack of child care and early learning opportunities for children in low-income households leaves parents struggling and many children without the support they need to succeed in kindergarten.

Meanwhile, child care workers do not earn enough to provide the basics for their own families. As the resolution notes, a living wage of at least \$15 per hour is needed for child care workers to meet their families' essential needs, yet the average child care center worker earns \$10.60 per hour and has experienced no increase in real earnings since 1997. Research shows that fair wages and staff working conditions are key predictors of a high child care program quality and positive child outcomes, yet far too many child care workers struggle to afford food, healthcare, and housing.

This important resolution offers a vision for a child care system that would guarantee affordable, available, and high quality child care for every family and a living wage for every child care worker—so working parents can make ends meet, businesses can compete in today's economy, and our nation's children can thrive. It expresses the House of Representative's support for making child care affordable, for both middle class families that struggle with costs and underpaid families too often left behind; available; and high quality, which includes providing a living wage and a voice on the job for child care workers; with guaranteed support for all working families that need it and the investments needed to ensure resources for both affordability and high-quality jobs and care.

Another generation of children can't afford to wait on a solution to the child care crisis. The time is now for bold, comprehensive action. We encourage you to support this important resolution.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women
AFSCME
American Federation of Teachers
American Psychological Association
Center for Community Change
Center for Popular Democracy
Child Care Aware
Child Welfare League of America
CLASP
Common Sense Kids Action
Demos
Easter Seals
First Focus Campaign for Children
Jobs with Justice
Make It Work Campaign
MomsRising
National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education
(NAECS-SDE)
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
National PTA
National Women's Law Center
Service Employees International Union
Working Families
YWCA USA
ZERO TO THREE