



Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act

Reps. Bonamici and Molinaro

Statements of Support

National CACFP Sponsors Association

Quote attributable to Lisa Mack, President and CEO, National CACFP Sponsors Association

NCA applauds Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY) for co-sponsoring the Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act of 2023. Every child deserves a healthy start in life and the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) plays a pivotal role in ensuring children and adults are nutrition secure. This Act includes priorities that will support thousands of CACFP operators who work tirelessly to meet the needs of children and adults in care. Allowing reimbursement for an additional meal or snack and improving the cost of living adjustment for family child care homes provide much needed funding for small businesses. Thank you for being champions of the CACFP." - Lisa Mack, President and CEO, National CACFP Sponsors Association

Home Grown

Quote attributable to Natalie Renew, Executive Director, Home Grown

"We are so grateful for the leadership of Representative Bonamici and Representative Molinaro as they continue the long history of bipartisan support for this much-needed legislation. We hear from home-based child care providers time and again that the current policy of two meals and one snack simply isn't enough for hungry young children in child care all day. Instead of letting children go hungry, caregivers are providing additional food from their own family's pantry. This is not sustainable nor acceptable. No child care provider should have to feed the children in her care at the expense of meals for her own family," said Natalie Renew, Executive Director, Home Grown

Bipartisan Policy Center's Early Childhood Initiative

Quote attributable to Linda K. Smith, Director of BPC's Early Childhood Initiative

"BPC applauds Representatives Bonamici (D-OR) and Molinaro (R-NY) for their bipartisan introduction of the *Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act*," said Linda K. Smith, Director of BPC's Early Childhood Initiative. "Research continues to demonstrate the positive impact food security and proper nutrition have on early childhood development and life-long health outcomes. This bill provides for an additional meal through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), as well as reverses outdated home-based child care policies that established a system of have and have nots for low-income families across the mixed-delivery child care system."

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

Quote attributable to Lee Saunders, President of AFSCME

“Across the country, we continue to face an unprecedented shortage of child care workers, which will only worsen if providers don’t receive critical federal investment. Parents today are working longer hours and depend on child care providers to meet essential needs, including proper nutrition, which is expensive. The bipartisan Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act would alleviate this crisis by ensuring providers can afford to serve nutritious meals all day, including suppers. We applaud Representatives Suzanne Bonamici and Marcus Molinaro for leading on this issue and introducing this crucial bill.”

YMCA of the USA

Quote attributable to Suzanne McCormick, President and CEO of YMCA of the USA

“A quality meal is essential to the well-being and development of children, and like child care providers throughout the country, YMCAs are working to ensure every child in our care has regular access to nutritious meals and snacks,” said Suzanne McCormick, President and CEO of YMCA of the USA. “We are grateful to Representatives Bonamici and Molinaro for their proposal, which would cut red tape and allow a third meal for children who are in our care all day. This bill would improve the CACFP program and enable more providers to participate, giving more children access to the nutrition they need to thrive.”