January 30, 2023

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20504

Dear Director Young,

We commend the Biden Administration for its historic work to advance child care and early learning, including through its commitment in prior budgets and the American Families Plan. As you finalize the budget for fiscal year (FY) 2024, we respectfully urge you to include child care and early learning investments of no less than the level in the House-passed Build Back Better Act – $390 billion over six years – in the FY 2024 budget.

The President’s commitment to “make the largest investment in child care in the nation’s history,” including proposing $425 billion over ten years in his American Families Plan, resonated with millions of Americans and with members of Congress. Although the bold vision we arrived at in the Build Back Better Act was not passed in the Senate, there remains substantial public momentum to address the child care crisis that is preventing families from finding or affording the care and education that they and their young children need.

Even though House and Senate Democrats recently secured a critical funding increase, significant gaps remain to adequately meet the needs of children and families. Data from previous years show that only one in nine eligible young children receive child care assistance. Increasing funding would help reach families most in need, expand support for the child care and early learning workforce, and increase child care supply.

Investments in high-quality child care and Head Start are among the most fiscally responsible investments we can make, improving children’s long-term outcomes and strengthening our economy. House Democrats were proud to vote for the child care relief provided through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), which has been essential in preventing the sector from total collapse and vital to our economic recovery. Although crucial, these ARPA stabilization funds are temporary and do not diminish the need for increased and sustained child care funding to address long-standing challenges, including a decline in child care providers, rising costs, and inadequate availability of subsidies to meet the needs of eligible children and families. For these reasons, we again urge you to include the highest level of funding possible for child care and early learning, and no less than $390 billion - the level in the House-passed Build Back Better Act.
Thank you for your consideration of this request. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to continue to improve our nation’s child care sector.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress
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