

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
2368-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Kingston, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you proceed with consideration of Fiscal Year 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations legislation, we urge you in the strongest possible terms to include the following high-impact investments early education, early intervention, and quality child care:

♦ **\$2.805B in FY15 funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), consistent with the President's FY16 budget request.** Child care remains one of the highest costs faced by American families, and as a result, far too many parents must choose between the healthy development of their children and making basic ends meet. These high-impact federal funds leverage the individual purchasing power of American families, and without them, millions of working parents will be unable to contribute to our nation's economic prosperity, hindering our economic growth. Every month, CCDBG funding provides over 900,000 million American families with access to quality, affordable child care, impacting over 1.5 million American children. During the last Congress, CCDBG was reauthorized with strong bipartisan support for the first time since 1996. The new law includes provisions designed to ensure the health and safety of children in child care settings, and make child care assistance more accessible to low-income families. However, implementing these important reforms will demand considerable new resources to enable states to meet the new requirements without cutting child care assistance to children. Already, 315,000 children in need have lost child care assistance between 2006 and 2013.

♦ **\$503.6M in FY16 funding for Grants for Infants and Families under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, consistent with the President's FY16 budget request.** A simple child hearing test costs \$10-\$50. A missed or late hearing impairment diagnosis costs a lifetime of diminished communication skills. This program

allows states to provide early intervention and screening where it counts, when it counts for 360,000 American children per year. Renowned economists, including Nobel Laureate James Heckman, have demonstrated high-quality early education can produce from \$7 to \$16 in benefits for every \$1 spent. This substantial return on investment is derived largely from long-term savings associated with a reduced need for special education, improved health outcomes, higher rates of high school and college graduation, decreased dependence on welfare programs, and increased workforce productivity of children who receive a high-quality early education.

♦ **\$353M in FY16 funding for Preschool Grants under Part B Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, consistent with the President's FY16 budget request.** These funds leverage significant nonfederal investment to ensure 750,000 American children with disabilities aged 3-5 enter school fully prepared to succeed. As stated above, research has demonstrated early childhood education is an effective strategy for improving the developmental outcomes and long-term success of children, especially low-income children. This program is a critical part of that effort.

Together, these programs represent **less than 0.09% of the entire federal budget**, but they have an outsized impact on the economic competitiveness of future generations. They also provide a strong, continuing return to the American taxpayer by both ensuring the sustained prosperity of our nation as a whole and alleviating very real, pressing needs.

We hope you will fully support these investments, which are critical to American working women, families, and young learners.

Sincerely,

Katherine M. Clark Marcia L. Judge

Betsy

Liz Hankel

Frank Pallone Jr.

Maxine Waters

Raven Moore

David A Collins

Bob, L Lush

Jim Butterfield

Rubén Hernández

Ami Bo

Brenda Laurence

J. Ann

Bill Scott

James A. Davis

Loretta Sanchez

Jerry Sewell

Sandy Lee

Jim Bo

Debbie Wasserman-Schiff

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JOAQUIN CASTRO

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Leil Luaden

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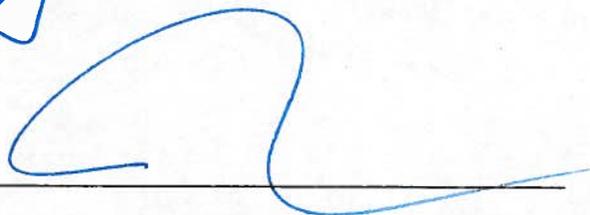
Bvette D. Clarke

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Kim Van Kull

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Jarl H. H.



Joseph ~~Trout~~

~~Sept. 19~~

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Chae Jettah

Jerry M. King

Alan S. K.

Wm Jackson & Keith Ellis

Luis Fariña

John J. Walsh

Cheri Busto

Alan Lomax

Jim Bunnick

FY16 LETTER IN SUPPORT OF CCDBG, IDEA PART B SECTION 619, IDEA PART C

Cosigners:

<p> Karen Bass, Joyce Beatty, Ami Bera, Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Brendan F. Boyle, Corrine Brown, Julia Brownley, Cheri Bustos, Sanford D. Bishop G.K. Butterfield, Lois Capps, Michael E. Capuano, Tony Cárdenas, Andre Carson, Matt Cartwright, Joaquin Castro, Judy Chu, David N. Cicilline, Katherine Clark, Yvette D. Clarke , Wm. Lacy Clay, Steve Cohen, Gerald E. Connolly, John Conyers Jr., Joseph Crowley, Elijah E. Cummings, Danny K. Davis, Susan A. Davis, Diana DeGette, Peter A. DeFazio, John K. Delaney, Suzan K. DelBene, Mark DeSaulnier, Tammy Duckworth, Donna F. Edwards, </p>	<p> Keith Ellison, Eliot L. Engel, Anna G. Eshoo, Elizabeth H. Esty, Chaka Fattah, Bill Foster, Lois Frankel, Marcia Fudge, John Garamendi, Alan Grayson, Al Green, Raúl M. Grijalva, Alcee L. Hastings, Denny Heck, Jim Himes, Rubén Hinojosa, Jared Huffman, Sheila Jackson Lee, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr., William R. Keating, Joseph P. Kennedy III, Ron Kind, Ann Kirkpatrick, Ann McLane Kuster, James R. Langevin, Brenda L. Lawrence, Barbara Lee, Sander M. Levin, John Lewis, Zoe Lofgren, Alan S. Lowenthal, Ben Ray Luján, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Stephen F. Lynch, Carolyn B. Maloney, Sean Patrick Maloney, Doris O. Matsui, </p>	<p> James P. McGovern, Jerry McNerney, Gregory W. Meeks, Grace Meng, Gwen Moore, Seth Moulton, Jerrold Nadler, Grace F. Napolitano, Richard E. Neal, Donald Norcross, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Beto O'Rourke, Frank Pallone Jr. Bill Pascrell, Jr. Scott H. Peters, Mark Pocan, Pedro R. Pierluisi, Chellie Pingree, Stacey Plaskett, Charles B. Rangel, Bobby L. Rush, Loretta Sanchez, Janice D. Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, Robert C. "Bobby" Scott David Scott, Terri A. Sewell, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Kyrsten Sinema, Albio Sires, Adam Smith, Jackie Speier, Eric Swalwell, Mark Takai, Mark Takano, Dina Titus, Paul Tonko, </p>
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<p>Niki Tsongas, Chris Van Hollen, Juan Vargas, Marc A. Veasey, Timothy J. Walz, Maxine Waters, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Bonnie Watson Coleman, Peter Welch, Frederica S. Wilson, John A. Yarmuth,</p>		
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