



CHILD CARE LAW CENTER®

January 25, 2019

Dear Member of Congress:

The historic increase in discretionary funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in FY 2018 and FY 2019 will greatly benefit children and families in our state. We urge you to build on this progress and close gaps before inequities widen for low-income families.

Please prioritize an increase to CCDBG funding by an additional \$5 billion in the FY 2020 appropriations bill. This will expand access to the high-quality child care that allows parents to work, contributes to the well-being of children, and strengthens our communities.

The new funding provided in FY 2018 has already enabled at least 11,000 California families to afford child care. The funds are also being used to annually inspect child care programs, improve health and safety, train and pay child care providers, and implement the requirements of the CCDBG reauthorization law.

However, total funding for child care (CCDBG funds and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds used for child care) in FY 2018 was nearly \$1 billion less than the FY 2001 funding level, after adjusting for inflation. In California, this has meant hundreds of thousands of children cannot attend high quality child care or preschool, and inequities in learning continue.

To achieve the goal of helping all families thrive with quality child care through increased funding, it is essential that you also support an increase in the budgetary caps on domestic spending and a proportionate increase in funding to the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill. These steps will ensure that increased child care investments do not come at the expense of other crucial supports for families and children.

We look forward to working with you. Thank you for helping to advance the success of our children, our families, and our country.

Sincerely,

Child Care Law Center

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