

August 7, 2020
United States Congress
Washington, D.C., 20004

To the Members of the Texas Congressional Delegation:

We write today in support of the child care industry in Texas. Our state's children and economy are threatened because COVID-19 has put our child care infrastructure at risk. In Texas, the child care industry has a direct revenue of \$3.64 billion – with an estimated \$8.7 billion impact on the state's economy.¹ Nearly two-thirds of today's working families report difficulties in finding child care. Families are struggling to find safe places for their children during the work day and need help now. Small business are struggling to stay open and keep Texans employed.

Many child care centers are closed. Centers that are open are recommended to serve fewer children due to the pandemic. More than four million child care slots may be lost without significant increases in funding to weather the pandemic.² Before COVID-19, the cost of providing quality care for infants and toddlers have always presented issues. Many providers across Texas struggle to acquire the financial resources needed to offer high-quality care for infants and toddlers, which limits the availability of affordable slots for infants and toddlers. While we are grateful for previous support for children and families in the previous federal relief packages, more must be done. Without assistance, families will be unable to find the child care they need to go back to work and support the economy. Without assistance, the small businesses that provide child care will go out of business.

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) only one-quarter of the child care market received a Paycheck Protection Loan. Yet, nearly all providers have experienced operating losses due to the pandemic.³ Without support, we run the risk of exacerbating the child care crisis that was in existence long before the pandemic.⁴ The viability of child care programs is dependent on substantial, additional, and direct investments from the public sector. Local communities and states are already struggling with new costs and reduced revenue.

Prioritize \$50 billion for the child care industry. When Congress considers next steps in providing aid, it must include provisions to address emergency needs through the pandemic and protect the child care industry as a key part of our nation's infrastructure for the next 12 to 18 months, including:

Provide security for child care providers, families, and employers. Child care providers that temporarily close due to the pandemic must continue to receive funding that allows them to

¹ Committee for Economic Development (CED). [Child Care in State Economics – 2019 Update](#)

² Bipartisan Policy Center. [Nationwide Survey: Child Care in the Time of Coronavirus](#)

³ National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). [Child Care & the Paycheck Protection Program](#)

⁴ The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). [Why We Need \\$50 Billion in Pandemic Child Care Relief](#)

pay staff and cover fixed costs. Since these small businesses vary widely in their current structures and funding streams, we must examine various financial tools when providing this funding.

Support for children of first responders, health care providers, and other essential personnel.

Essential personnel need primary protective equipment to remain healthy and continue to serve the community in which they live.

Sustain the market today and in the future by providing assistance to child care. Just as small businesses are suffering during these times but are receiving relief, children are also hurting. Providing assistance to child care will help sustain children now more than ever, as well as in the future after the pandemic. The decline in care options reduces the availability of parent-choice. Additional funding will help providers acquire the appropriate staff and financial resources needed to offer high-quality care.

While the long-term impact of the pandemic on child care will be devastating, the immediate impact is already harming families and providers. The good news is we are not locked into this reality. We must take steps **now** to reduce the loss of additional child care centers during the crisis and get those that have closed back open.

Texas needs support from you and your colleagues in the United States Congress to ensure child care providers are able to reopen for the economic recovery. **Families will not be able to find the care they need to go back to work. For the country to recover, child care providers must be supported and protected in this difficult time.**

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A Special Place Learning Center
A.M. Loving Arms Childcare
American Heritage Academy & Child Care
Anthem Strong Families
Apogee STEM Discovery Learning Academy
Applegate Farms Childcare
Armenta's Early Childhood Development
Austin Chapter Texas Association for the Education of Young Children
Austin Travis County Success By 6 Coalition
Beginnings and Beyond
Beginnings and Beyond Klein
Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Houston
Bright Beginnings
Busy Bee's Learning Center
Child Care Services Permian Basin

CHILDREN AT RISK
Children's Defense Fund – Texas
Children's Learning Centers of Amarillo, Inc.
Circle Up United Methodist Women for Moms
City of Austin
Collaborative For Children
Community Health Choice
Cook Children's
Distinct Abilities Academic Preschool
Distinct Abilities Academic Program
Doctors for Change
Early Head Start UTRGV/PSJA
Early Learning Alliance
Early Matters Dallas
Educate Midland
Educational First Steps

Emergent Ed. Child Care Consulting Inc.
Families Empowered
First3Years
Gingerbread House Day Care Hutchison
Elementary
Gingerbread House Day Care
Gingerbread House Frost Elementary
Gingerbread House/Bentley After-School
Program
Gingerbread House/Hubenak After-School
Program
Gingerbread Kids Academy/Arredondo After-
School Program
Giraffe Kids Learning & Development Academy
Green Space Learning
Hancock Professional Development Resources
& Consulting
Happy Start Inc. dba Kid Connection Academy
Harris County Department of Education Head
Start
Healy Murphy Center
Imaginare School Inc
Ivy Kids-Hobbs
Karla Cisneros, Houston Council City Member
for District H
Kiddie Academy of Grand Harbor
Kiddie Academy of Rosenberg
Kids Clubhouse
Kids R Kids
Kids R Kids Cinco Ranch East
Kids R Kids of Rosenberg
Legacy Community Health
Lena Pope
Little Explorers Academy – Houston
Lubbock Area United Way
Mainspring Schools
Martial Arts & Athletic Center
Momentous Institute
Noah's Little Ark
One Texas Center Inc., dba First Class CDC 2
One Texas Center Inc., dba First Class Child
Development Center
Opportunity School
Optimalife, LLC
Parents as Teachers with United Way of El Paso
County
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
Polk Street Child Development Center

Previous Angles Childcare
Pre-K 4 SA
Promised Land Christian Academy
Pye's Day Care Center
Respite Care of San Antonio
Royal Children Learning Center
SAISD Early Childhood
San Antonio College Early Childhood Center
San Francisco Nativity Academy
San Jacinto Christian Academy
SEARCH Homeless Services
Small Steps Nurturing Center
South Plains Chapter of Texas Association for
the Education of Young Children
Sweet Briar Child Development Centers
Texans Care for Children
Texas Association for the Education of Young
Children
Texas Licensed Child Care Association
Texas Partnership for Out of School Time
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas Tech Child Development Research Center
TexProtects
The Gingerbread House Learning Center
The Little School Daycare
Tri-County Community Action
Trinity Child Development Center
United Way for Greater Austin
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County
University of Texas at Austin
UTRGV EHA PSAJAISD
YMCA of Austin
YMCA of Greater Houston
YMCA of Greater San Antonio
YWCA El Paso del Norte Region