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 workday and need help now. Small businesses 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 has 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

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² Bipartisan Policy Center. [Nationwide Survey: Child Care in the Time of Coronavirus](https://www.bipartisanpolicy.org)
³ National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). [Child Care & the Paycheck Protection Program](https://www.naeyc.org)
⁴ The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). [Why We Need $50 Billion in Pandemic Child Care Relief](https://www.clasp.org/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