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July 28, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the NEA who educate students across our nation and understand that child care is linked to school readiness, we urge you to vote YES on both the Child Care is Essential Act (H.R. 7027) and the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act (H.R. 7327). Votes on these issues may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

The lack of affordable, quality child care keeps those who can go back to work during the COVID -19 pandemic from doing so and hinders businesses' ability to return to normalcy. Without at least \$50 billion in funding, **our nation could lose 4.5 million child care slots, about half of our capacity.** The Child Care is Essential Act and the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act offer crucial support for child care providers and the families that rely on them.

The Child Care is Essential Act provides \$50 billion to states (through CCDBG) for stabilization grants to licensed, regulated, or registered child care providers for purposes including:

- Paying personnel costs, including providing premium pay and employee benefits;
- Sanitizing and cleaning, and personal protective equipment;
- Training and professional development related to health and safety;
- Rent, utilities, and other fixed costs; and
- Other goods and services necessary to stay open, reopen, or remain viable.

The Child Care for Economic Recovery Act would broaden the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC), which helps families offset a portion of their child care costs against their taxes, and the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), which helps families pay for child care. The legislation would:

- Expand the CDCTC so that families with low and moderate incomes can benefit from it;
- Increase the amount of direct assistance available through CCDF, so that all families with low and moderate incomes can access high-quality child care; and
- Provide other relief targeted to the pandemic, such as a tax credit for employers who offer child and dependent care benefits to their workers, tax relief for child care providers, and funding to states for child care for essential workers.

NEA members, too, are dependent on safe, reliable child care. They need to know their own children are in good hands so they can concentrate on teaching and supporting students, whether in person or remotely. We urge you to vote YES on the Child Care is Essential Act and the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association