



December 4, 2020

U.S. Senator Jack Reed
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Include at least a \$10 billion investment to stabilize child care in second stimulus

Dear Senator Reed:

As Congress reconvenes and momentum grows for a second stimulus package to help the millions of Americans impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, we write to urge you to continue to advocate for at least \$10 billion to stabilize our nation's child care sector.

Child care programs have always operated on razor-thin margins to provide quality care while keeping tuition costs as affordable as possible for parents. For many child care providers in Rhode Island and across the nation, the pandemic has dealt programs a substantial financial blow as they initially had to close to slow the spread of the virus and then reopened operating under strict new health and safety requirements that have added to the cost of care. Combined with decreased enrollments, this reality has left many child care providers on the brink of being forced to close their doors. We cannot allow this to happen.

Now, more than ever, children are in need of consistent and nurturing caregiving and access to early childhood, afterschool, and summer learning opportunities. Parents are in desperate need of safe options so they can return to work. Rhode Island needs to maintain a stable supply of healthy, safe, and quality child care options.

An investment of \$10 billion for our nation's child care sector in a second federal stimulus package would mean more than \$20 million that would flow to Rhode Island's child care system. This funding is desperately needed to stabilize our child care providers and child care workforce so they can continue to serve Rhode Island's children and families.

Put simply, child care is essential to our rebound from this terrible pandemic. Please continue to do all that you can to ensure at least \$10 billion is devoted to stabilizing our nation's child care as part of the next stimulus package.

Sincerely,

The Right from the Start Campaign Steering Committee

Leanne Barrett, Rhode Island Kids Count; Marcela Betancur, Latino Policy Institute; Susan Dickstein, RI Association for Infant Mental Health; Rachel Flum, Economic Progress Institute; Lisa Hildebrand, RI Association for the Education of Young Children; Khadija Lewis Khan, Beautiful Beginnings; Mary Varr, Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association



December 4, 2020

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Hart Senate Office Bldg., Rm. 530
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Include at least a \$10 billion investment to stabilize child care in second stimulus

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

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