August 5, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Majority Leader  Speaker
U.S. Senate  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader  Minority Leader
U.S. Senate  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy,

We write today to urge you to prioritize the inclusion of the Child Care is Essential Act in the next Coronavirus supplemental package. In order for our economy to recover, and for working families to return to work, the next supplemental package must include at least $50 billion in immediate child care stabilization funds and long-term investments to ensure access to quality, affordable child care for workers.

As we continue to navigate the devastating impacts of the pandemic, the National Association for the Education of Young Children estimates that 40% of child care providers expect they will close permanently without additional assistance.[1] This would be devastating for children, families, child care providers, and businesses. Unfortunately, the CARES Act did not provide enough funds to stabilize the industry and the Paycheck Protection Program provided short-term relief to less than 6 percent of all child care providers.[2] Child care is too essential to fail. The upcoming stimulus must invest in child care so that we can stabilize and secure American families and our economy.

The House passed the Child Care is Essential Act (H.R. 7027) in a bipartisan manner. This was a monumental first step. Including this bill as part of the upcoming stimulus package must be a top priority so that we can begin the hard work of rebuilding and revitalizing our future.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to supporting your efforts to provide for the future of America’s children, economy, and early education and child care programs.

Sincerely,

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Sherrod Brown
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed
Jack Reed
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine
Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Margaret Wood Hassan
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Martin Heinrich
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator