

September 13, 2021

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Child Care Access Means Parents in School Reauthorization Act

Dear Senator Duckworth:

As organizations committed to promoting the success of college students with dependent children, we are writing to express our strong support for **legislation to reauthorize the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS) program (S.2625)**. The CCAMPIS program provides vital support for the participation and success of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based child care, which is widely recognized as one of the most important supports for parenting college students.

**Parents of dependent children make up nearly one-quarter (22 percent or nearly four million) of U.S. undergraduate students and over half of these parents have children under age six.** The COVID-19 pandemic has put into stark relief the challenges that these student parents face. Most student parents are balancing child care, academics, one or more jobs, and precarious finances. Recent data from the 2020 Gallup-Lumina Student Study demonstrate that student parents have been more likely to cancel or pause their educational journeys in the last six months than students without children. Child care was the most common reason that student parents named for pausing their educational plans.

Despite the large share of college students with children and their need for child care, however, **campus-based child care has been declining in recent years, most dramatically at community colleges where the largest numbers of student parents are enrolled.** The child care crisis triggered by the pandemic has only exacerbated the strain on the campus child care sector. As student parents go back to on-campus learning, their need for affordable child care has never been greater.

**The CCAMPIS program is the ONLY federal program dedicated specifically to providing child care assistance for students with low incomes in postsecondary settings.** It helps meet the high demand for low-cost child care, enabling student parents to persist in and complete postsecondary credentials, which are critical to their families' economic well-being. As it stands, the CCAMPIS program supports a small fraction of students' need for affordable child care. **Increasing its funding to \$500 million would allow the program to provide child care support for roughly 100,000 more parenting college students.**

For these reasons, we express support for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Reauthorization Act.

Sincerely,

Austin Community College Children's Lab School

Baruch College Early Learning Center, Inc.

Cal Poly Pomona

California Competes  
Center for Child and Family Studies, University of California at Davis  
Central Georgia Technical College  
Child Care Services Association/T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center  
College of the Redwoods  
Colorado Center on Law and Policy  
CSUSB Infant/Toddler Lab School  
First Five Years Fund  
Generation Hope  
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute  
Higher Learning Advocates  
Institute for Childhood Preparedness  
Institute for Women's Policy Research  
Joliet Junior College  
LA Valley College  
Lane Community College  
Larissa Mercado-Lopez, Professor, California State University, Fresno  
Long Beach City College Child Development Center  
Madison Area Technical College  
MomsRising  
National Center for Families Learning  
National Organization for Women  
National Women's Law Center  
One Family  
Parents as Teachers  
PERG Learning  
Regina Nazzaro, Director, R. J. Call Children's Center  
Rio Hondo College Child Development Center  
Santa Monica College  
Save the Children  
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

The College of Staten Island Association, Inc., The Children's Center

The Evergreen State College

The Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children

Tina Cheuk, Assistant Professor, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

United Way for Greater Austin

Univ. of Hawaii - Bridge to Hope

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Wellesley Centers for Women

Wende Lescynski, Single Parents Reaching Education to Employment Achievement Coach,  
Jamestown Community College

Women Employed

Young Invincibles