



June 1, 2026

Dear Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned organizations, led by the Child Care for Every Family Network with the support of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, National Women’s Law Center, the Center for Law and Social Policy, and the National Association of Family Child Care, strongly urge you to reject a package of child care bills—or the “Stop Child Care Scams Act of 2026”—amending the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

These bills give the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services unprecedented authority to withhold all Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funding from states without cause or due process, bar child care providers for non-fraudulent activity, and burden states with costly activities that don’t improve program integrity. There is no evidence of significant or widespread fraud in the federal child care program. These bills will be detrimental to child care access as they will result in fewer families receiving child care assistance from CCDF, fewer child care providers willing to serve families with child care subsidies, and further destabilize America’s child care sector, which is already stretched too thin. The latest [annual survey report](#) from the National Association for Family Child Care reveals an unsustainable situation: 35% reported earning less than \$10 an hour despite 71% working 50 or more hours per week, and 48% reported working 60 or more hours per week. A [recent survey](#) of providers by the National Association for the Education of Young Children makes clear that insufficient public investment threatens parents’ ability to afford and access child care.

In short, these bills deny support to children and families while doing absolutely nothing to strengthen our child care system or help the millions of families that are struggling to find and afford the child care they need. Lawmakers must reject this effort that will destabilize our child care system and harm the families that rely on it.

The House of Representatives will soon consider legislation that ignores the real child care crisis and create a constellation of policies that exacerbate this crisis, undermining and weakening our current system and doing nothing to help the millions of families that urgently need help affording child care. **We urge lawmakers to reject the “Stop Child Care Scams Act of 2026,” which includes the following bills:**

- **H.R. 7720 Child Care Payment Integrity and Fraud Accountability Act:** This bill treats all states as high-risk by annual error rate reviews instead of every three years, despite no evidence of significant or widespread fraud in the CCDF program. These time-consuming, burdensome, and costly reviews will mean states have less funding for child care assistance, while doing nothing to reduce fraud.

- **H.R. 7721 Combating Regulatory Abuse, Closing Known Deficiencies, and Overseeing Waste Nationwide Act (CRACKDOWN Act):** This bill would give the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) new power to freeze 100% of a state's child care funds for state administrative errors. Uses an arbitrary, low-risk threshold standard that isn't about fraud and eliminates state due process. This doesn't reduce fraud and would needlessly punish thousands of families who rely on federal child care assistance and destabilize a state's child care sector.
- **H.R. 7723 Safeguarding Taxpayer Dollars in Child Care Act:** This bill requires HHS and USDA to penalize providers unfairly, including permanently barring child care providers from receiving federal child care funds and participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This puts providers who haven't committed fraud at risk of losing their business and could make them less willing to serve families with CCDF subsidies. This could have a chilling effect on providers serving families with subsidies, making it harder for these families to find the care they need. It also means that more child care programs could close altogether and more families - including those who don't use subsidies - will have a harder time finding and affording child care.

Regarding CACFP, the bill would further undermine the existing and deeply flawed Serious Deficiency (SD) process to trigger disbarment from the entire program. CACFP ensures that the participating child care centers, family child care homes, Head Start programs, afterschool programs, and emergency shelters serve healthy meals and snacks. States currently administer CACFP with strong oversight systems created by USDA, designed to detect and prevent integrity concerns. SD is inconsistently applied and often triggered by minor errors- not fraud or misconduct- and should not result in termination from either CACFP or CCDF.

H.R. 7726 No Funds for Repeat Child Care Violations Act: This bill would require HHS to permanently bar child care providers from receiving federal funds for non-fraudulent actions, such as incomplete paperwork, like missing signatures. This puts providers who haven't committed fraud at risk of losing their business if they serve families paying with CCDF subsidies. It could have a chilling effect on providers serving families with subsidies, making it harder for those families to find the care they need. It also means that more child care programs could close altogether, and more families - including those who don't pay with subsidies - will have a harder time finding and affording child care.

- **H.R. 7724 No Waivers for Fraud Act:** This bill would eliminate HHS's ability to waive a sanction it has placed on a state. This flexibility is rarely, if ever, used but would be important to preserve for instances of capricious sanctioning of states without proof of fraud and more generally for unforeseen situations in which the Secretary and state agree that withdrawing a sanction is appropriate.

We urge lawmakers to vote NO on any package that includes these bills and instead focus on the real child care crisis facing our country.

Signed,

National Organizations

Child Care for Every Family Network
Center for Law and Social Policy
National Association for Family Child Care
National Women's Law Center
MomsRising
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

All Our Kin
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
AP-OD
Care in Action
Caring Across Generations
Catholic Charities

Children's Defense Fund
Children's Funding Project
Children's HealthWatch
Coalition on Human Needs
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Region
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Early Learning Policy Group
Equal Rights Advocates
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
Family Values @ Work
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Head Start Child & Family Development Centers, Inc.
Home Grown
Indigenous Visioning
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Integrated Community Solutions, Inc
Justice + Joy National Collaborative
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
LEGAL VOICE
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Black Child Development Institute
National Child Care Association
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Indian Child Care Association
National Organization for Women

National Respite Coalition
National Women's Political Caucus
People Power United
Poder Latinx
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Citizen
ResourceFull Consulting
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
TOOTRiS
UMOS
Voices for Progress
Vote Mama Lobby
ZERO TO THREE

State and Local Organizations

Alabama

Alabama Institute for Social Justice

Alaska

Alaska Children's Trust
Southeast Childhood Collective
All Alaska Pediatric Partnership (A2P2)

Arizona

Children's Action Alliance
Southwest Human Development

Arkansas

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

California

California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAAEYC)
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
Black Californians Unite for Early Care and Education
Child Care Law Center
Early Edge California
The Children's Partnership
CAPMC
California Commission on the Status of Women & Girls
Black Californians United for Early Care and Education
Parent Voices CA
Bay Area Professional Family Child Care Network
CommUnify
Options for Learning
Modoc County Office of Education/ Early Head Start

Colorado

Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children (COAEYC)
The Colorado Children's Campaign

Connecticut

Connecticut Voices for Children

Delaware

Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children

District of Columbia

DC Action
DCAEYC
SPACES In Action
DC Fiscal Policy Institute

Florida

Florida National Organization for Women
Florida Head Start Association

Georgia

Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network
Voices for Georgia's Children
Helping Mamas
Black Child Development Institute (BCDI)- Atlanta
Georgia Child Care Association
Tri-County Family Connection
Easter Seals North Georgia, Inc.

Hawai'i

PATCH
Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!

Idaho

Idaho Head Start Association

Illinois

COFI-POWER-PAC IL
Illinois Head Start Association
SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana Missouri Kansas
Indivisible Chicago Northwest

Indiana

Indiana Head Start Association

Iowa

Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

Kansas

Futures First

Kentucky

Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

Louisiana

For Providers By Providers (4PXP)

Child Care Association of Louisiana

Maine

Maine People's Alliance

Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition

Maine Association for the Education of Young Children (MaineAEYC)

Family Child Care Association of Maine

Maryland

Maryland Family Network

Latino Child Care Association of Maryland, Inc.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Head Start Association

Community Labor United Inc.

Strategies for Children

Neighborhood Villages

Michigan

Michigan League for Public Policy

Michigan AEYC

Minnesota

All Nations Rise

Gender Justice

Chamber of Mothers Minnesota Chapter

Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH)

Mississippi

Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative

Missouri

WEPOWER

Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children

Rhizome: Early Childhood Strategy & Policy Solutions

Missouri Head Start Association
Empower Missouri
Region VII Head Start Association
Douglass Community Services

Montana

Montana Advocates for Children
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies - The Montana Coalition
Montana Association for the Education of Young Children
Zero to Five Montana
Montana Budget & Policy Center

Nebraska

IBBG
Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc.

Nevada

Children's Advocacy Alliance

New Hampshire

Kids First Consulting

New Jersey

NJ Communities United
New Jersey Citizen Action
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Laundry Workers Center
NJ Association for the Education of Young Children
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
CWA Local 1037

New Mexico

OLÉ Education Fund
New Mexico Early Childhood Association

New York

Alliance for Quality Education
The Children's Agenda
NY Association for the Education of Young Children
Diverse Mosaic Community Center
Children's Defense Fund - New York
Citizen Action of New York
Early Care & Learning Council
Western New York Child Care Action Team

North Carolina

Education Justice Alliance

North Dakota

North Dakota KIDS COUNT

Ohio

Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children
Southwest Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children
Ohio Organizing Collaborative
Chosen Kids
Columbus Early Learning Centers
Early Care and Learning, Inc.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Association for the Education of Young Children
Oklahoma Child Care Association

Oregon

For All Families Oregon
Children's Institute

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Head Start Association
Children First (PA)
Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Pennsylvania Child Care Association
New Voices for Reproductive Justice
First Up

Rhode Island

RI Association for the Education of Young Children
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

South Carolina

South Carolina Program for Infant/Toddler Care
Institute for Child Success

South Dakota

South Dakota KIDS COUNT

Tennessee

Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children

Texas

CHILDREN AT RISK

Texans Care for Children
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Austin/Travis County Success by 6

Utah

Utah Association for the Education of Young Children
Voices for Utah Children
Utah Private Child Care Association

Vermont

Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Building Bright Futures, Vermont's Early Childhood State Advisory Council
Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children

Virginia

Virginia Head Start Association
Virginia Organizing

Washington

Children's Campaign Fund
Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP
Akin

West Virginia

West Virginia Head Start Association, Inc.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Wisconsin Head Start Association
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

Wyoming

Wyoming Community Foundation