

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations and
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole, Chair Murray, and Ranking Member Blunt,

As 63 organizations, institutions, and advocates committed to promoting the postsecondary success of college students with children, we are writing to express our strong support for increasing funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program to \$500 million—the amount needed to provide child care support to approximately 6 percent of Pell-eligible student parents of children ages 0-5. CCAMPIS provides vital support for the participation and success of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of subsidized child care, which is widely recognized as one of the most important supports for parenting college students.

This historic moment demands a historic investment in student parents and their children. The COVID-19 crisis has put into stark relief the challenges student parents—many of whom are also working parents—face balancing child care, academics, one job or several jobs, and precarious finances, even before the pandemic. [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. **Increasing CCAMPIS funding to \$500 million in the Labor-HHS-ED appropriations bill would ensure that roughly 100,000 more parenting college students receive the child care assistance they need to continue their educational journeys and be successful in college.**

Nearly 4 million college students are parents of dependent children, representing more than one in five undergraduates in the United States. Many of these student parents are balancing college and parenting without the support of a spouse or partner: 1.7 million women in college are single mothers. Student parents—particularly those who are single and face acute financial, work, or caregiving demands—that can complicate their ability to persist to graduation. Student parents are more likely than other students to live in poverty, to have no resources to devote to college costs, and to incur substantial student debt—due in large part to the high cost of child care. Student parents also spend significant time providing care, with 21 percent of community college students spending more than 20 hours per week caring for dependents, according to the [2020 Community College Survey of Student Engagement](#).

Access to affordable child care is one of the most important supports that can help student parents succeed in college. Data from one community college show, for example, that usage of the campus child care center led to a 21 percent increase in degree attainment over the rate for student parents who did not access the center. Students often do not have access to affordable care, however. According to [a recent survey](#) of roughly 23,000 student parents, 70 percent of respondents reported that their child care arrangement was unaffordable. Without affordable child care, student parents are often forced to make tough decisions about their enrollment. In 2020, 28 percent of community college students reported that they are likely or very likely to leave school due to their caregiving responsibilities.

Unfortunately, campus-based child care has been declining in recent years—most dramatically at community colleges, which enroll the largest share of student parents. COVID-19 and the pandemic’s economic fallout have exacerbated the national child care crisis. The need for student parent access to affordable child care has never been greater than it will be as campuses re-open.

The CCAMPIS program is the *only* federal program dedicated solely to providing child care assistance for low-income students in postsecondary settings. Other available child care assistance, such as subsidies provided through the Child Care Development Block Grant, are important sources of support but can be hard for student parents to access due to restrictive eligibility rules such as work requirements and degree limitations. CCAMPIS has no work requirements, and it helps meet students’ need for low-cost, high-quality child care. This support enables them to persist toward and complete postsecondary credentials that are critical to their families’ economic well-being and associated with a range of multigenerational benefits. Scaling up this program to serve a larger percentage of Pell-eligible students with young children would allow CCAMPIS to reach 100,000 more students, greatly improving their chances of postsecondary success. This critical investment will also stabilize the campus child care sector, which provides a lifeline to college opportunities for students with children.

For these reasons, we express our strong support for increasing funding for the CCAMPIS Program to \$500 million in the FY2022 Labor-H appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Achieving the Dream
AMC Consulting
America Forward
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Federation of Teachers
Ascend at the Aspen Institute
Austin Community College District (ACC)
Bellevue College, Early Learning Center
Bergen Community College Child Development Center
Berkshire Community College
Bunker Hill Community College
Cal Poly Pomona

Cal State University, San Bernardino Early Childhood Education Programs
Center for First-generation Student Success
Central Georgia Technical College
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
College of the Redwoods
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Cornell Office Of Student Government Relations
Denise Gabrelski, Student Success Advocate
Early Childhood Laboratory, UC Davis
Feminist Majority Foundation
Greenfield Community College
Helen Gordon Child Development Center, Portland State University
Higher Learning Advocates
Hildreth Institute
Housatonic Community College
Institute for Women's Policy Research
Lane Community College
Lindgren Child Care Center
Long Beach City College
Los Angeles Valley College
MassBay Community College
May Children's Center at Brazosport College
Middlesex Community College
Milwaukee Area Technical College
Modern Military Association of America
Mott Community College
Mount Wachusett Community College
National Skills Coalition
National Women's Law Center
New America's Higher Education Program
North Shore Community College
Ohio Student Association
Oregon State University Cascades
Partners for Education
PERG Learning
South Texas College
St. Catherine University
Student Basic Needs Coalition
Student Veterans of America
The Education Trust
The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)
uAspire
University of California Student Association
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
University of Hawai'i Student Parents at Mānoa

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Children's Center
Washington Coalition for Campus Children's Centers
Women Employed
World Education, Inc.
Young Invincibles