



July 28, 2009

The Honorable George Miller
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), representing hundreds of public and private child-serving member agencies located in all fifty states, is pleased to support the Early Learning Challenge Fund, Title IV in H.R. 3221.

CWLA has a long history of supporting legislation and policy that advances this nation's priorities in regard to child care and early childhood education. We believe that by strengthening the link between child care, Head Start, Early Head Start and other state early education programs we can improve the well being of this nation's children and families.

CWLA is pleased that the Administration and Congress have focused new attention on addressing the needs of children aged zero to five, particularly by proposing measures to advance home visitation programs and including additional funds in the stimulus for child care, Head Start and Early Head Start, and now by advancing legislation that will invest \$1 billion a year in this new challenge fund. We applaud efforts to support low-income families with young children. We believe that by improving the quality of early learning programs and expanding access we can prevent child abuse and child neglect and improve the well being of all children.

We look forward to continuing to work on these issues and this bill as the process moves forward. We commend your leadership on early childhood issues and hope that we can advance the nation's policies in all areas of child care and early childhood education.

Thank you for your continued commitment to children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine James-Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine James-Brown
President/CEO