



The Honorable George Miller
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

On behalf of the 9 KinderCare and Knowledge Beginnings Learning Centers in your district, I want to thank you for introducing H.R. 3221 and hope that your colleagues will support the bill when it comes before the House of Representatives this week. We are thrilled that Title IV of H.R. 3221 will create an Early Learning Challenge Fund to provide grants to the states to increase the quality of Early Childhood Education (ECE).

Economists from Nobel Laureate James Heckman to Art Rolnick, Chief Economist of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve, have demonstrated that there is no higher return on investment in education than the return gained by investing in high quality Early Childhood Education. The Early Learning Challenge Fund included in H.R. 3221 will give the states the ability to create high quality ECE programs for children from birth to age five, and will focus federal funds on the children who benefit the most from high quality ECE – children from disadvantaged families. By investing in early childhood today, we make children better prepared for kindergarten and elementary school, reduce long-term dropout rates, teen pregnancy, and crime, and increase long-term earnings and GNP.

We are proud of the fact that the Knowledge Learning Corporation operates more high quality early childhood education centers than any other private provider. Our programs serve more than 250,000 children every week through more than 1,800 early learning centers and 700 school-based sites in 38 states and the District of Columbia. We have more nationally-accredited centers than any other private provider. We have developed our own proprietary early childhood development curriculum that provides age-appropriate instruction to help children grow, learn, and be prepared for elementary school. We provide regular, ongoing, professional development opportunities for our teachers, and also offer special enrichment programs for children in everything from phonics and math, to arts, the sciences, and foreign languages.

The Early Learning Challenge Fund will enable us to significantly increase the number of young children who receive a high quality early childhood education, while keeping program development at the state and local level. By leveraging resources from federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector, it also ensures maximum return for our investment.

Thank you for introducing this bill and for supporting the thousands of children in your congressional district who will benefit from a high quality early childhood education if H.R. 3221 becomes law.

Sincerely,

Miriam Liggett
Eastern Division Vice President
Knowledge Learning Corporation

Weldon Spangler
Western Division Vice President