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July 21, 2009

Via Facsimile: 202-225-3961

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, Committee on Education & Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

The National Black Child Development Institute is excited to support the Early Learning Challenge Fund in H.R. 3221. NBCDI has worked for nearly 40 years to improve and advance the quality of life for black children and their families through advocacy and education. The goals of the Early Learning Challenge Fund align with our vision of a society committed to a successful future for every child.

We fully embrace the purpose of this Challenge Fund to increase the number of low-income children in high quality early learning programs. In particular, we are pleased that this legislation supports the development of infrastructure for state early learning systems. By giving states the resources to develop common early learning and program standards, methods of monitoring quality and supporting quality improvements, avenues for early educator professional development, data systems, outreach strategies to parents, and coordination of health screenings and referrals, we believe that children will be given the best opportunity to thrive in the short and long term future.

We eagerly join with you to promote this legislation and to ensure sustained investment in educational opportunities that increase the life chances of black children. The promise of this Challenge Fund to create educational equity at the earliest levels and to start a generation of disadvantaged children on the path toward overcoming the barriers of poverty will hopefully inspire many to support this cause.

Sincerely,

Carol Brunson Day

NBCDI is a member of the Children First-America's Charities Federation (#11574)