



September 12, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
The Honorable George Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kline and Representative Miller:

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) is pleased that the House is considering the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) seeks to improve the lives of low-income people by advocating for policies that deliver results that matter.

Child care assistance is an essential work support for low-income parents who struggle to find and keep employment to provide for their families. The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is unique among many federal programs in that its two-generation focus has the ability to support both parents' economic success and children's healthy development.

The CCDBG Act of 2014 is an important step forward for improving the health and safety of child care. It also would make crucial improvements to the program that would allow children to have more sustained access to child care assistance, which helps parents stay in their jobs and move up and supports children's development by providing more continuity in their child care arrangement. The Act seeks to improve the quality of child care overall, with a particular focus on infants and toddlers. Quality infant-toddler child care is rare and particularly out of reach for low-income families. Given the robust body of research on the importance of the earliest years of life for children's growth and success, CLASP supports this effort to improve the quality and availability of infant-toddler care.

While we are pleased to lend our support to this legislation, we note that increasing resources for child care must also be a top Congressional priority. Our most recent analysis shows spending on child care assistance at a 10-year low. Insufficient federal funds have led states to make reductions in their child care programs, with the number of children served falling to a 14-year low. States will need additional resources to meet the goals of the legislation and to ensure that low-income families are able to retain access to this vital program. Expanding economic opportunity for low-income adults today and strengthening the foundation for their children's success in school and in life are worthy investments.

Thank you for your efforts in moving forward this important, bipartisan legislation.

Sincerely,

Olivia Golden
Executive Director