



September 15, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor and Pensions  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman, House Education and the  
Workforce Committee  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member, House Education and the  
Workforce Committee  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Todd Rokita  
United States House of Representatives  
36 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Burr  
United States Senate  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Loebsack  
United States House of Representatives  
1527 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 205

Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Alexander, Senator Mikulski, and Senator Burr,  
Chairman Kline, Ranking Member Miller, Representative Rokita, and Representative Loebsack;

I am writing on behalf of Child Care Aware® of America (formerly the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, NACCRRA) to express support for your legislation, the *Child Care & Development Block Grant Act of 2014*, which would reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant and would better protect the health and improve safety of children in child care settings across America.

Families want their children to be safe in child care. They reasonably assume that a child care license means the state has approved some minimum level of protection for children and that the program will promote their healthy development. Our nationwide polling shows that parents also believe there is oversight by the state. However, most state licensing requirements are weak and oversight is weaker.



For over 15 years, reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant has been Child Care Aware® of America's top legislative priority and we have been working on both the federal and state levels to improve the quality of child care.

Child Care Aware® of America has issued seven licensing studies that show state laws regarding child care settings vary greatly. The most recent report, *We Can Do Better: 2013 Update*, scored and ranked the states on their child care center program requirements and oversight policies. The average score was 92 out of a total possible score of 150 – for a grade of 61 percent.

Children's early years are proven to be the most impactful time to create strong learners. This reauthorization bill is a huge step to move the nation forward ensuring children are safe and receiving the best early learning experiences while in child care. This bill sets the standard all families expect for their children by requiring providers to undergo comprehensive background checks, annual and pre-licensure inspections, and training.

This bill includes significant measures to improve the quality of child care and ensure that all children in child care settings are safe.

Child Care Aware® of America looks forward to working with you to pass this legislation into law. Thank you for your continued leadership in support of our nation's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynette M. Fraga".

Lynette M. Fraga, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Noth McCready".

Michelle Noth McCready  
Director of Policy

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Carol Scott".

L. Carol Scott, Ph.D.  
President, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas P. Vucic".

Nicholas P. Vucic  
Senior Government Affairs Associate