



September 15, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman,
U.S. House Education and the Workforce Committee
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As Executive Director of Child Care Aware of Virginia, a nonprofit statewide child care resource and referral network, I am writing to thank you and to express full support for the bipartisan, bicameral legislation to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

As an organization that works every day to assist parents in finding child care and to assist child care providers in offering quality child care settings, I see first-hand both the demand for and the need for quality child care. Over Labor Day weekend, the Washington Post ran several stories about the deaths of 60 children in child care in Virginia, 43 in unlicensed care over the past several years. When any child dies it is certainly a tragedy, but it is a double tragedy when you know that the deaths could be prevented by better training for child care providers and more oversight from states.

The bicameral, bipartisan, Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act will combine important safety protections for children in child care with more accountability for the expenditure of public dollars.

I commend your leadership and the efforts of Representative George Miller, Representative Todd Rokita, and Representative David Loebsack as well as the leadership of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee for setting aside partisan politics and reaching agreement on CCDBG reauthorization to ensure that children are safe in child care. Parents want quality child care. The reauthorization bill is the right policy to both ensure children's safety and strengthen the quality of the workforce.

Choices among quality child care settings is critical for working parents. This legislation is an important milestone in support of working families. Thank you for all that you do in support of working families with children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Veatch".

Sharon Veatch
Executive Director
Child Care Aware of Virginia
302 Turner Road, Suite D
Richmond, VA 23225