



The Knowledge Universe Family of Brands

September 15, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Committee on Education & the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

Knowledge Universe enthusiastically offers its support for *The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014* (S. 1086). The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) plays a critical role in ensuring working parents have access to a quality provider of their choice.

Knowledge Universe is honored to provide high-quality education and care to over 150,000 children across the United States who range in age from six weeks to 12 years of age. We are proud of the diverse group of children whom we serve. Approximately one-third of our children are from low-income working families who receive assistance under CCDBG. The core focus of Knowledge Universe is the quality of each child's educational experience. When parents choose our KinderCare centers, in addition to wanting their child to be safe and well-cared for, they also expect their child to receive the highest-quality educational experience possible.

In the almost two decades since Congress last reauthorized CCDBG, we as a nation have learned much more about the importance of health and safety and quality educational programming, especially for low-income children. *The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014* makes important changes to the current CCDBG statute that support quality improvements in the early developmental and educational experiences children will receive through the program.

One of the most important changes *The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014* makes to current law relates to continuity of care. For children of low-income working families, the 12-month determination period for eligibility will serve as a critical element for ensuring greater consistency and better kindergarten readiness outcomes. Further, the legislation's health and safety standards requiring all programs, including those that are license-exempt, to undergo annual health, safety, and fire inspections are critical for raising the quality of care provided through CCDBG. Finally, the legislation's focus on the importance of teacher training and professional development to promote children's development and kindergarten readiness, as well as provisions that support Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, national accreditation, and tiered reimbursement are all essential elements for enabling working families to access a high-quality child care provider of their choice.



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Knowledge Universe and the families whom we serve thank you for your hard work and dedication to this important CCDBG reauthorization. The quality improvements included in *The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014* will work to ensure that more children of low-income working families have access to a high-quality early care and learning experience that best meets their needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celia H. Sims".

Celia Hartman Sims
Vice President, Government Relations