



First Five Years Fund

September 15, 2014

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

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on
Education and the Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

I am writing in my capacity as the Executive Director of the First Five Years Fund (FFYF) to express support for your amendment to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (S. 1086), a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the child care subsidy for low-income working families. FFYF is committed to improving the lives of at-risk children by improving education, health, and economic outcomes for our nation by investing in early learning. Congratulations on drafting a bipartisan, well-rounded bill that makes progress on our shared objectives to improve access to quality early learning opportunities for young children.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is a key component of federal early learning efforts to ensure that children birth to age five are ready for school and success in college, career, and life. A vital support program for families who cannot otherwise afford child care, CCDBG provides low-income families with the child care assistance they need to be able to go to work. The law was last reauthorized in 1996, and given the amount of research, particularly in the area of brain science, that has been conducted since, FFYF appreciates that S. 1086 emphasizes quality, continuity of care, and stability of care arrangements that frees parents to work and supports child development.

In many respects, this bill is catching up to recent research and science and current practice. This legislation builds on work being done by leading states from around the country to elevate quality and offer more effective child care programs from birth through age five. States including Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Illinois are already using CCDBG to accelerate innovations that improve quality, health, and safety standards in early childhood programs. S. 1086 will help all states to bolster child care quality and improve outcomes for their youngest learners.

Investments in quality early learning are the solution to many our nation's most pressing challenges— including growing our economy, decreasing reliance on social programs, reducing

deficit spending, and helping our children acquire the necessary skills they will need to compete on a global scale in the 21st century. The First Five Years Fund supports the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 as an important step in helping low-income families attain safe, enriching early experiences for children birth through five.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kris Ruy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kris" and the last name "Ruy" clearly distinguishable.

Executive Director
First Five Years Fund