October 8, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chair, Senate Committee on the Budget

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Chair, House Committee on Education and Labor

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

The Honorable John Yarmuth  
Chair, House Committee on the Budget

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Chair Sanders, Chair Murray, and Chair Wyden, Speaker Pelosi, Chair Yarmuth, Chair Scott, and Chair Neal,

As negotiations on the budget reconciliation process continue, we write to express our united desire for Congress to maintain crucial provisions of the Build Back Better Act including paid family and medical leave, Child Tax Credit, and child care & preschool. These interconnected investments are most successful when they are paired together, in order to sustainably advance families' economic stability, address their care needs, and achieve lasting and positive effects on our communities and economy.

Each of these crucial provisions were included in this historic package by President Biden and Congressional Democrats because they are pro-family, pro-child, pro-work, and pro-business, all at the same time.

Consider the following:

- Only 21 percent of U.S. workers have access to paid family leave through an employer and only 40 percent have access to short-term disability insurance. Nearly one in four employed mothers return to work within two weeks of giving birth and one in five retirees leave the workforce earlier than planned to care for an ill family member. The Build Back Better Act would ensure workers receive partial wage replacement to take time to bond with a new child, care for a seriously ill loved one, or take needed recovery for oneself.
- The average annual cost of center-based child care for an infant is close to $12,000 per year – a price tag few families can afford for a service that is essential to parents’ ability to work. Meanwhile, most Americans live in a child care desert, while the flawed nature of America’s child care market leads to low wages for early educators, which leads to high turnover and an inability to recruit or retain early educators. The Build Back Better
Act would make child care and preschool affordable for all families, and build a strong, stable early learning system that meets the needs of families and providers alike.

- The American Rescue Plan Act extended full Child Tax Credit eligibility to 23 million children—disproportionately Black and Latinx children—who previously did not qualify because their families make too little. Maintaining this monthly benefit through the Build Back Better Act for families with children would reach 88 percent of children and youth nationwide, a lifeline for parents trying to pay rent, buy food and clothes, save for their children's education and meet other critical needs. It is estimated that child poverty rates alone will drop 45 percent.

Congress has an opportunity to ensure every child has a strong start in life and every parent has the means to provide for themselves and their families, while also supporting women's labor force participation amid a pandemic and economic crisis that has had a devastating impact on working mothers, in particular. We implore you to pass the Build Back Better Act with the proposed funding for these vital provisions – paid leave, the Child Tax Credit, and child care & preschool – intact.

Sincerely,

1, 2 Buckle My Shoe, Inc.
1,000 Days
4C for Children
A Better Balance
a2z Academie
Abby Shapiro Consulting
Acre Family Child Care
Action for Children
Adams Montessori School
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
African American Ministers In Action
Agenda for Children
Alameda Professional Child Care Association
Alaska Children's Trust
Alcuin School
Alder Montessori
Alíen Montessori Community School
All About Children Inc.
All Nestled Inn Family Childcare
All Our Kin
Alliance for Quality Education
Alphabet Soup Childcare Center, Inc.
Alta Vista Montessori School
America Forward
American Association of University Women
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
American Institutes for Research
American Montessori Institute
American Montessori Society
Arbor Montessori School
Arcadia Montessori School
Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children
Arizona Montessori Teacher Education Program
Arkansas Early Childhood Association
Arts 4 Kids
Associated Montessori International
Association Montessori International/USA
Association Montessori Internationale
Association of Illinois Montessori Schools
Atlanta Montessori International School
Austin Montessori School - AMI
Ayer Kiddie Depot
Bamboo Grove Montessori
BANANAS, Inc
Beautiful Beginnings Child Care Center
Becker School
Bethel Child Care Services, Inc.
Birch Tree Montessori School
Blooming View Montessori Academy
Blossoming Buds Preschool & Daycare
BMG Consulting
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
Boston University Wheelock College of Education and Human Development
Bristol Child Development Center
Cabell Wayne Family Child Care Association
CACFP Roundtable
California Alternative Payment Program Association
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
California Family Child Care Network
Cape & Islands Common Start Coalition Chapter
Caring Across Generations
Carl Sundahl Montessori
Carrot Patch Early Learning Center
Casa Montessori Child Development Center
Cascade Care LLC
Cathedral Hill Montessori School
CDF Action
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Predictive Analytics
Chaminade University Montessori Lab School
Chesapeake Montessori School
Chesnut Grove Montessori
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Child Care Association of Sussex County
Child Care Aware of Minnesota
Child Care Aware of Missouri
Child Care Aware of Washington
Child Care Aware® of America
Child Care Law Center
Child Care of the Berkshires, Inc.
Child Care Resource Center - California
Child Care Resources, Inc.
Child Tools Consulting
Child Welfare League of America
Childcare Business Institute
Childpeace Montessori
Children Now
Children's Advocacy Alliance
Children's HealthWatch at Boston Medical Center
Children's Institute
Children's Investment Fund
Children's Trust Fund Alliance
Children's Trust of Massachusetts
Children's Village
Children's Workshop Montessori School
Children’s Action Alliance
Children’s Forum
Children’s Trust of South Carolina
Citizen Action of Wisconsin
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
City Garden Montessori School
Clayton Early Learning
Cleveland State University School of Social Work (Emeritus faculty)
Coalition for Social Justice
Coalition of Labor Union Women, AFL-CIO
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Colage
Colorado Children's Campaign
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families
Common Good Iowa
Common Ground Child Care
Commonwealth Children's Center
Community Change Action
Community Montessori School
Concord Montessori School, Inc
Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children
Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
Connecticut Voices for Children
Coral Reef Montessori Academy Charter School
Corrine's Little Explorers
Council for Professional Recognition
Country Kids Childcare and Early Learning Center, LLC
Crabapple Montessori School
CTK Kids Learning Center
DC Association for the Education of Young Children
De Colores Daycare Center
De Niz Child Care Center LLC
Del Ray Montessori School
Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children
DiAnne Coggins Family Childcare Home
Diego's Family Child Care LLC
Donna's Daycare
Dottie's Family Childcare
E & E Angel’s Child Care Center
EAC Montessori School of Ithaca
Early Childhood Education Institute
Early Childhood Education Institute at the University of Oklahoma - Tulsa
Early Childhood Innovations
Early Edge California
Early Childhood International Training Center
East Boston Social Centers
East Norwalk Child Care
Economic Mobility Pathways
Economic Policy Institute
Economic Progress Institute
Economic Security Project
Educare Central Maine
Educare DC
Educare Learning Network
Elaine Clark Center
Elisabeth Amen Nursery School at Wheaton College
Ellis Early Learning
Empire Justice Center
Enable, Inc.
Equity Before Birth
Ericka's Early Childhood Consulting
Evergreen Day School
Exceptional Persons Inc.
Family Forward Oregon
Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts, Inc.
Family Story
Family Values At Work
Family Voices New Jersey
Feminist Women's Health Center
Fire Heart Institute
Firestarter Interactive
First Children's Finance
First Federated Church - Sunshine Preschool
First Five Years Fund
First Up
Fitchburg Loves the Children
Flintridge Montessori School
Florida Family Child Care Home Association, Inc.
Florida Policy Institute
Follow the Child Montessori
For Kids Only Afterschool
Forest Bluff School
Fresno County Family Child Care Association
Future All Star's Academy, LLC
G & T Daycare Montessori Program
Georgia Association for the Education of Young Children
Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students
Georgia Head Start Association
Giant Steps
Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center
Golden Corridor Association for the Education of Young Children
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc
Green County Child Care Network
Groundwork Ohio
Grove Hall Child Development Center
Gulf Coast Montessori
Hamden Early Learning Program
Hamden's Partnership for Young Children
Harbor City School
Hart to Hart Childcare Center
Hartford Public Schools
Hawai‘i Children's Action Network Speaks!
Hayward Twin Oaks Montessori School
Heart and Hand Montessori Teacher Education Program
Heart of Illinois - Chapter of Illinois AEYC
Hershey Montessori School
Hilltop Montessori School
Horizons For Homeless Children
Housman Institute
Hudson Hills Montessori
Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children
Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children
Impact Fellows Action Fund
Institute for Childhood Preparedness
Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation at the University of Massachusetts Boston
Intercultural Montessori Language School
International Montessori Council
International Montessori Training Institute
Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children
Iowa Women's Foundation
Isthmus Montessori Academy
Jaylene’s Drop In Daycare
John F. Kennedy Family Service Center, Inc.
Jumpstart
Juniper Gardens Children's Project, University of Kansas
Kansas Action for Children
Kansas Affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children
Karing 4 Kids Inc.
Kendal ELC
Kentucky Center for Economic Policy
Kentucky Montessori Alliance
KEYS 4 HealthyKids
Kidango
Kidd's R Us FCC
Kiddie Kollege Family Child Care Learning Home, LLC
Kids Included Together
Kids N' Care
Kids Win Missouri
King Family Licensed Child Care
King’s Corner Learning Center
Kingsley House
Kozmic Korner Fairlawn
Ladybug Crossing Early Learning Center
Lake Country School
Let's Grow Kids
Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School
Lincoln Nursery School
Little Angels Academy Inc
Little Critters Early Learning Center
Little People Nursery School
Little Star of Ours Daycare
Little Sunshine’s
Little Tots Playcare
Los Primeros Pasitos Daycare
Louisiana Families First Coalition
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children
Love Grows Family Child Care Learning Home
Loyola University Maryland Center for Montessori Education
Lunenburg Learn and Play Home Daycare
M & M Sweet Child Care
Magic Garden Inc.
Magnolia Montessori School
Main Street Alliance
Maine Association for the Education of Young Children
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Community Action Partnership
Maine Head Start Directors Association
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Women's Lobby Education Fund
Making Opportunity Count
Many Rivers Montessori
Marin Montessori School
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.
Mariposa Montessori School
Mary's Little Lambs Child Care and Preschool
Maryland Essentials for Childhood
Maryland Family Network
Maryland State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect
Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children
Massachusetts Child Care Resource & Referral Network
Mayflower Early Childhood Center
Meadows Montessori School
Meher Montessori School
Melinated Moms
Merary’s Family Day Care
Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Michigan’s Children
Midwest Child Care Association
Mile High United Way
Milwaukee Area Technical College
Milwaukee Succeeds
Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board
Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children
Minnesota Montessori Network
Minnesota Prenatal to Three Coalition
Minnesota School Age Care Alliance
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative
Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children
MomsRising
Monroe Preschool, Inc.
Montessori Academy
Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education
Montessori Administrators of Georgia
Montessori Alliance of Tennessee
Montessori Association of North Carolina
Montessori Center of Our Lady
Montessori Children's House
Montessori Children's House and School
Montessori Consulting Services, LLC
Montessori de Terra Linda
Montessori Educational Programs International
Montessori Elementary Teacher Training Collaborative
Montessori In Redlands
Montessori Institute of North Texas
Montessori International School of Bellevue
Montessori Northwest
Montessori Partnerships for Georgia
Montessori Public Policy Initiative
Montessori School of Casper
Montessori Schools of Charlottesville & Lexington
Montessori Works, Delaware
Montessori4autism
Morgantown NOW
Mountain Laurel Montessori School
Mountain View Montessori School
Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association for Family Child Care
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Social Workers - West Virginia
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector
National Child Care Association
National Council of Jewish Women
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Employment Law Project
National Indian Child Care Association
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Rural Social Work Caucus
National Women's Law Center
NCIT Capacity Building Hub / BUILD Initiative
Near North Montessori
Neighborhood Villages
Nemours Children's Health
New Britain School Readiness
New Futures - New Hampshire Kids Count
New Hampshire for the Education of Young Children
New Hampshire Montessori Association
New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children
New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence
New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children
New York Association for the Education of Young Children
Next Door
Noreen's Family Child Care Home
North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children
North Carolina Child
North Carolina Early Education Coalition
North Shore Community College
Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children
Northwest Montessori School
Norwalk, CT Early Childhood Office
Nurture Early Education
Oak Hill Montessori Community School
Oak Knoll Montessori School
Oaks Montessori Teacher Education
Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children
Ohio Voices for Learning: A Reggio Inspired Forum
Oklahoma Association for the Education of Young Children
One City Schools, Inc.
Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children
Pacific Crest School
Pacific Northwest Montessori Association
Paid Leave for All
Paid Leave for the U.S.
Paleta Family Child Care, LLC
Parent Toddler Organization
Parents as Teachers
Parker Montessori
Penfield Children's Center
Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children
Pennsylvania Child Care Association
Pennsylvania Head Start Association
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Perrino Consulting
Philomath Montessori School
Piccolo Mondo Learning Center, Inc.
Platteville Area Industrial Development Corporation
Play and Prep Preschool
Portland Montessori School
PRE4CLE
Prince George's County Family Child Care Association
Professional Family Child Care Alliance
Professional Family Child Care Association of Georgia
Proveedoras Unidas
Public Justice Center
Quality Care for Children
Quest Montessori School
Quincy College
Rattle The Windows
Reach Out and Read Wisconsin
Reba Early Learning Center
Restaurant Opportunities Center of Michigan
Restaurant Opportunities Center of New Orleans
Restaurant Opportunities Center Pennsylvania
Restaurant Opportunities Centers Mississippi
Restaurant Opportunities Centers of The Bay
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
Rhode Island Association for Infant Mental Health
Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
RIght from the Start Campaign
Rise Up West Virginia
RISEIU State Council
Riverfront Children's Center
ROC - Chicago
Rodel
Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office
Sagebrush Montessori
Saint Edward’s Montessori School
San Diego County Family Child Care
San Diego for Every Child
Sarasota University
Save the Children
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Seton Montessori Institute and Schools
Small Blessings Child Care
Small Steps Family Child Care
South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children
South Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children
South Shore Stars
Southeast Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children
Southeast Alaska Friends of Montessori
Southwest Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children
SPACEs In Action
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
Springhill Montessori School
Springmont School
Square One
St. Luke's Community House
St. Peter's Child Care Center
Stamford Cradle to Career
Starflower Montessori School
Start Early
Stone Strategies, LLC
Strategies for Children
Sunbeam Child Care Center
Sundari Foundation, Inc. dba Lotus House Women's Shelter
Sunny Day Child Care & Preschool, Inc.
Sunny Hollow Montessori
Supermajority
Supporting Families Together Association
Sussex Preschools, Inc
Sweet Pea Montessori
Tacoma Public Schools
Teaching Strategies
TEAM for WV Children
Temple Beth Shalom of Needham
Texans Care for Children
Texas Association for the Education of Young Children
The Bingham Program
The Boston Foundation
The CAYL Institute
The Center for Guided Montessori Studies
The Centers for Families and Children
The Children's Agenda
The Children's Garden Nursery School, Inc.
The Children's Meetinghouse
The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County
The Children’s House
The Children’s House Auburn Montessori
The Children’s Tree Montessori School
The Family Conservancy
The Family Tree/Prevent Child Abuse Maryland
The Gingerbread House
The Good Project
The Growing Tree
The Institute for Education and Professional Development, Inc.
The Ivy School
The Learning Experience
The Montessori Institute
The Montessori Institute of San Diego
The Montessori School of Bowling Green, LLC
The Montessori School of Charlottesville
The Preschool Around the Corner
The Walden School
The Workshop Learning Center
Think Babies™ North Carolina Alliance
Think Small
thread, Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Network
Three Little Pigs Daycare
TIME'S UP Now
Tiny Treasures Family Daycare
Tipp City Enrichment Program
Torre di Montessori
Tot Learning Center-Skokie Park District
ToTH Montessori
Train Up a Child Learning Center LLC
Trans Empowerment Project
Transcend
Tree of Life Montessori School
Trying Together
Tulane University
Tutoring by Denise
Union for Reform Judaism
United Migrant Opportunity Services Inc.
United States Breastfeeding Committee, Inc.
United Way Miami
United Way of Central Iowa
United Way of Greater Fall River
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley
United Way of Wisconsin
United Ways of Iowa
University of Oklahoma Tulsa - Early Childhood Education Institute
Utah Association for the Education of Young Children
Valley Forge Kinder House Montessori School
Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children
Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Vermont Early Childhood Network-Milton
Village Academy
Village Montessori
Violeta Montessori School, Inc
Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children
Virginia Early Childhood Foundation
Virginia Head Start Association
VMEF
Voices for Progress
Voices for Virginia's Children
Vote Mama Foundation
Walking Home, Inc
Washington Association for the Education of Young Children
Washington Montessori Institute
WCTC Child Development Center & Lab
We Demand More
Weirton Heights Day Care
West Central Initiative
West Virginia Association For Young Children
West Virginia Chapter of the National Organization for Women
West Virginia Council of Churches
West Virginia Family Child Care Association
West Virginia Focus: Reproductive Education and Equity
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
Westabou Montessori School
Westshore Montessori School
What a Little Birdy Told Me
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association
Women of Reform Judaism
Wonderland Montessori Group of Schools
Working Families Party
Wyoming Kids First
Yimma's Bright Beginnings Daycare LLC
YMCA of San Diego County, Childcare Resource Service
Youth for a Better World
YWCA of Central Massachusetts, Early Education and Care
YWCA USA
ZERO TO THREE