



September 18, 2025

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the 100,000 members and supporters of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), I urge you to support student parents by calling for the release of FY25 appropriated funds for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program and ensuring that the program is funded for FY26, along with expanding access to the program by cosponsoring the CCAMPIS Reauthorization Act. CCAMPIS provides critical childcare support for low-income student parents, helping them manage expenses as they pursue higher education.

Higher education is a pathway to success for many Americans. It leads to increased opportunity, higher earnings potential, and upward intergenerational socioeconomic mobility. It is a cornerstone of the American dream, yet for many students with children, that dream is increasingly out of reach, in part due to a lack of affordable childcare.

Currently, more than 3 million undergraduate students (18%) are raising children while attending college.<sup>1</sup> Student parents tend to be women (74%), first-generation students (48%), and students of color (55%).<sup>2</sup> A lack of resources and supports for student parents risks further hurting these individuals by delaying graduation and increasing their student loan debt.<sup>3</sup>

Access to affordable childcare options is one such resource that ensures student parents have the tools they need to succeed and attain their degrees.<sup>4</sup> In 2024, the national annual average cost of childcare for one child was \$13,128, which would be 35% of a single parent's median household income<sup>5</sup> – highly unaffordable for any student parent who is already struggling to make ends meet. In recent years, there has also been a decline in universities offering campus-based childcare, partly due to the rising costs of such centers and the overall lack of investment in the care economy.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Theresa Anderson, Afet Dunder, Sheron Gittens, et al. *Who Are Undergraduates with Dependent Children? An Updated Overview of Student-Parent Characteristics Using 2020 Data*. SPARK Collaborative, 2024. <https://studentparentaction.org/assets/r-file/Who-Are-Undergraduates-with-Dependent-Children.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Alyssa Stefanese Yates. *Student-Parent Data: What We Know, What We Don't, and How to Find Out*. American Council on Education, 2024. <https://www.acenet.edu/Documents/Student-Parent-Data.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Sarah Nzau and Tia Caldwell. "Child Care Is a Basic Need for Students with Children." *New America*, September 2023. <http://newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/access-child-care-student-parents/>.

<sup>5</sup> Child Care Aware of America. "Catalyzing Growth: Using Data to Change Child Care." May 2025. <https://www.childcareaware.org/price-landscape24/>.

<sup>6</sup> Mark Huelsman. "It's Time for Congress to Meet the Needs of Parenting Students." *The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs*, September 2024. <https://hope.temple.edu/hope-blog/its-time-congress-meet-needs-parenting-students>.



The Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program addresses the lack of affordable childcare for low-income student parents by providing grants to colleges and universities. These grants can be used to establish or expand on-campus childcare centers, subsidize off-campus care, and support before- and after-school programs. Participation in this program is associated with higher rates of retention, completion, and better academic performance among student parents.<sup>7</sup>

I urge you to support student parents by ensuring stable access to this program through these three steps:

1. Urge the Department of Education to open applications to allocate FY25 appropriated funds for the CCAMPIS program.
2. Ensure that there is sufficient funding appropriated for the CCAMPIS program during the FY26 appropriations process.
3. Expand access and stabilize funding to the program by cosponsoring the CCAMPIS Reauthorization Act, which will:
  - a. Reauthorize CCAMPIS through FY2030.
  - b. Authorize \$500 million annually.
  - c. Raise grant award levels (\$75,000 minimum; \$2 million maximum).
  - d. Reduce barriers for student parents to access benefits.
  - e. Provide stronger technical assistance to institutions.
  - f. Connect student parents to food, housing, and health supports.
  - g. Require disaggregated data collection to increase accountability.

To cosponsor the CCAMPIS Reauthorization Act, contact Ashley Bykerk ([ashley.bykerk@mail.house.gov](mailto:ashley.bykerk@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Clark's office. Supporting student parents today not only helps them earn degrees but also ensures they achieve long-term self-sufficiency and can realize their American dream.

Cosponsorship and votes associated with this legislation may be scored in the AAUW Action Fund *Congressional Voting Record* for the 119th Congress. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-728-3300 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Meghan Kissell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meghan Kissell  
Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.