



February 24, 2011

The Honorable Pete Stark
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 755

Dear Representative Stark:

On behalf of the membership of the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, we are writing in support of your legislation, H.R. 755 which sets aside a portion of the revenues raised through the Investing in Our Future Act, to support the Child Care and Development Block Grant as well as other important national priorities.

High quality child care is a key link to California and our nation's economic success. It is a basic that helps families obtain and retain employment and helps children succeed from early childhood into adulthood. High-quality care has been shown to have long term positive impacts on children. When parents are comfortable with the care of their children, working outside the home and obtaining self-sufficiency comes easier. Studies are clear that child care helps keep parents in the work force.

In California, we have over 200,000 children eligible and waiting for child care subsidy assistance. All this in addition to the massive cuts to the child development system resulting from the devastating California budget and draconian veto of funding for our Stage 3 child care by Governor Schwarzenegger. We know that many states have long waiting lists of parents who are eligible and need child care assistance.

Families with tight budgets must come up with a way to pay for child care on their own. Some will have no choice but to use lower-cost child care that may not offer the early learning environment their children need to get a strong start. These are often the children and families that need quality child care the most. Some parents will lose their jobs when unreliable child care arrangements fall through or when they cannot find any affordable child care at all. Other parents will have no choice but to turn to welfare to support their families despite their desire to work.

We thank you for your leadership in introducing this legislation and all that you do to help ensure that low-income children get a strong start and their families have the help they need to get and keep a job.

Sincerely,

Patty Siegel
Executive Director

Donita Stromgren
Policy & Member Services Director