



NAFCC Supports the Child Care for Working Families Act

Salt Lake City (September 14, 2017): Today, the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) issued a statement in support of the *Child Care for Working Families Act*, designed to ensure that low- and middle-income families have access to high-quality child care. The legislation calls for establishing a new federal-state partnership to provide high-quality, affordable child care from birth through age 13.

“The child care crisis is very real in this country. Parents need reliable child care options to go to work in the round-the-clock economy, but limited funding for child care assistance and the high price of child care forces families to make difficult decisions. At the same time, the supply of licensed child care does not meet the demand for child care, and the availability of licensed family child care is dropping when it should be rising. Program leaders committed to quality face challenging operational costs,” said Bill Hudson, Chief Executive Officer, NAFCC.

The Child Care for Working Families Act, introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA) calls for amending the Child Care and Development Block Grant, strengthening it with new investments and smart approaches including:

- Ensuring that no family under 150% of state median income pays more than seven percent of their income on child care. Families would pay their fair share for care on a sliding scale, regardless of the number of children they have.
- Requiring states to create tiered and transparent measures and pathways to increase quality of practice, substantial resources to providers to increase quality, and signaling the direction to states to recognize accreditation in state systems to build the supply of quality child care.
- Investing in providers on their path to quality of practice, paying for the cost of quality, and compensating the child care workforce for their crucial work.
- Building the supply of child care, acknowledging the diversity of child care settings, and strongly including family child care as well as family, friend and neighbor care (FFN) as part of the solution for the child care crisis and supporting their quality of practice.
- Acknowledging the diversity of families and their needs, including children with disabilities and families seeking reliable care for non-traditional hours.
- Creating or expanding staffed family child care networks to support providers enrolling children from infants through school age.

“Thank you to Senator Murray and Representative Scott for taking this bold step to ensure the millions of children in child care are ready for school and ready for life. We believe family child care is part of the solution, and this legislation highlights our shared commitment to meeting the needs of families and building the supply of high-quality child care. We look forward to working with Congress to keep this moving forward,” noted Hudson.

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About family child care

Family child care is the preferred arrangement of many families, and a necessity across the country as well. Family child care is uniquely well-positioned to meet the needs of families often challenged to identify reliable child care options. This includes families with infants and toddlers, families needing care during non-traditional hours, military families, communities of color and immigrant families, families of children with special needs, and

families in rural communities. Family child care is the business of child care and the practice of early care and education in the program provider's home. The National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) identified one million paid providers caring for children in a home, caring for three million children from birth to age five in these settings. Professional family child care is one part of the much larger community of home-based child care arrangements that families count on. NSECE identified about 118,000 listed, paid providers caring for over 750,000 children ages birth through age five.

About NAFCC

The mission of the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is to support and leverage a nationwide network of providers and partners in expanding and promoting the power of family child care. NAFCC's priority is to build the supply of high-quality family child care to meet the needs of infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children; to support working families with reliable, affordable choices for child care arrangements that meet their needs; and to create crucial early learning opportunities right in our own neighborhoods. NAFCC has led the family child care accreditation program for over 25 years. The standards are research-based and demonstrate principles of child growth and development as well as current best practices in the early childhood field. Accreditation is not just a mark of quality, but a demonstration of commitment to continuous quality improvement. State and local family child care associations are also providing crucial services and opportunities to the family child care community. NAFCC and affiliate associations offer peer networking among family child care providers, facilitate training, and play leadership roles as stakeholders in policy development and connecting policy to practice. For more information please go to www.nafcc.org or contact policy@nafcc.org.