**Provider LTE**

To the editor,

As someone who has worked as a child care provider for [xx] years, I’ve seen how quality care can give children a strong start to life. That’s why I’m encouraging [our state leaders, Rep Name, Senator Name] to help more children thrive by investing in high-quality early childhood programs, such as child care.

Research shows that quality child care is critical because most of a child’s brain develops during the first five years of life. Children in our care spend their days in a stimulating educational environment, and as a result, are better prepared for kindergarten. I’ve seen firsthand how prioritizing learning from the start sets children up for success in the future.

Unfortunately, high quality child care is unaffordable for too many families. That is why I’m encouraging [our leaders, Rep, Senator] to increase funding for the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which helps low- and middle-income families afford high-quality care.

I’ve seen the impact early learning can have on kids, and I know the investment is worth it. If more families in [state] can access high-quality child care, we will all witness the benefits for years to come.

Word count: 196