

Call Your Members of Congress: Support Child Care Centers in the Stimulus Package

Phone calls are an impactful way to influence legislators. Calling your lawmaker's office is easy to do and only takes a few minutes. Congressional offices receive many calls from constituents every day. Every call is tallied by the office, and they use the volume of calls on a certain issue to gauge what's most important to their constituents. Typically, the issues with the greatest number of calls are the ones that get the most attention from the member of Congress.

To start, look up the phone number of your congressional representatives at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov. Check out this [video](#) about calling your legislator to prepare yourself and your fellow advocates!

Tips on Calling your Member of Congress:

- **Your legislator will not be the one to take your call so you don't have to be nervous!** A staffer will answer the call and take down your message to record with other constituent calls they receive that day. Given the volume of messages related to the coronavirus, you may not reach a staff member at all and leave a voicemail message instead.
- **You don't have to be an expert.** Don't feel that you have to memorize facts and figures before your call. It's more important to express that you are a constituent who is passionate about addressing the child care issues resulting from the coronavirus.
- **State that you are a constituent.** When you call, tell the staffer who answers that you are a constituent. The staffer will probably request your address so that they can confirm you are a constituent and mail you a written response.
- **If you have a story, share it!** Personal stories go a long way to illustrating the problem.
- **Be brief.** The staffer who answers the phone receives many calls every day. Simply let them know why you are calling and that you are a constituent.

Child Care Centers Should Receive Funding in the Stimulus Package:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, countless child care centers – already operating on tight budgets – face the real threat of not being able to pay their staff, rent and other expenses. Consequently, they are confronted with the possibility of having to close their doors permanently. In response to this issue, Save the Children Action Network is mobilizing constituents to call their lawmakers and ask them to ensure that funding to keep child care centers open is included in the stimulus package.

Sample Call Script:

Hi. My name is [____] and I am constituent from [city, state].

I'm calling to ask [legislator] to call for robust funding for child care centers in any stimulus packages. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, countless child care centers – already operating on tight budgets – face the real threat of not being able to pay their staff, rent and other expenses. As a consequence, they are confronted with the possibility of having to close their doors permanently. As this global pandemic spreads around our community, it's important that we remember to prioritize what is best for our children and the workforce.

[Note: If you have a personal story, be sure to include it when you call your members of Congress.]