**Child Care Funding LTE: September 2020**

To the editor:

As a Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) advocate and a [PARENT/GRANDPARENT/CHILD CARE PROVIDER/CONCERNED CITIZEN], I’m frustrated with our nation’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly when it comes to child care. While the media is finally highlighting the child care industry’s plight and policymakers are taking note of its importance, Congress has yet to pass a stimulus package with sufficient funding.

The child care industry is indispensable to millions of American families, and to America’s workforce and economy. On top of this, child care is a bipartisan issue, with overwhelming support from voters and policymakers alike. According to a SCAN poll, 82% of Republican voters and 94% of Democrat voters support federal assistance to child care providers. And, recently, the House of Representatives passed the Child Care is Essential Act with support from both Democrats and Republicans – including $50 billion for the child care industry – while the Senate included $15 billion for child care in their recovery package. So, there is consensus that the child care industry is important. But, consensus is not enough. Action must be taken before it’s too late.

And, it almost is.

Since the pandemic, child care costs are 47% higher and enrollment is down by 67%. Two out of five providers are certain they will close permanently without federal funding. 21% of companies have had employees quit and 13% of parents have lost jobs due to lack of child care. And, we can’t forget the months of learning loss for millions of American children. How will they ever catch up?

I urge [NAME OF POLICYMAKERS] to act now and pass a stimulus package that includes robust funding for the child care industry. The time for talk is over. Our workforce, economy and future promise of America’s children depend on it.

[NAME]

[CITY]

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