

April 3, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies

The Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies

Dear Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Capito, and Ranking Member Baldwin,

As 80 organizations and institutions, and 177 advocates committed to promoting the postsecondary success of college students with children, we are writing to express our strong support for robust funding for the **Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program** in the next Appropriations bill, on the way toward investing the \$500 million annually needed for the program and include language requiring the Department of Education to use the funds as intended by Congress. CCAMPIS offers vital support for the participation and success of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of subsidized child care and is widely recognized as one of the most important supports for parenting college students. Over **four million** college students in the United States are parents, representing nearly one in five undergraduates and more than one in four Pell Grant recipients.

Parenting students are striving to provide a better life for themselves and their children. Unfortunately, they also face acute financial, work, and caregiving demands that can complicate their ability to earn a postsecondary credential. The many challenges they face balancing child care, academics, work, and precarious finances can become barriers to their ability to persist in higher education. Investing in student parents to support their college completion can generate a [return on investment](#) through decreased public benefit spending and tax revenue gains.

CCAMPIS removes barriers to student success. Data from the [U.S. Department of Education](#) show that parenting students with access to reliable and affordable childcare through CCAMPIS have a persistence rate of 75%. **Increasing CCAMPIS funding to \$500 million in the Labor-HHS-ED appropriations bill would ensure that roughly 75,000 more parenting college students, approximately 6 percent of Pell-eligible parenting students with children under 5, receive the child care assistance they need to stay enrolled and earn their postsecondary credential.**

Parenting students are a growing student population, uniquely motivated to excel in their programs of study despite the many challenges they face. Many of these parenting students are balancing college and parenting without the support of a spouse or partner, with 54 percent of single mothers also working 20 hours or more and 43 percent working 30 hours or more per

week, on top of their course load. Parenting students are more likely than other students to live in poverty and incur substantial student debt—mainly due to the high cost of child care. One in four parenting students experience food or housing insecurity, and an [overwhelming majority](#) of parenting students say that child care is not affordable.

CCAMPIS puts child care within financial reach and keeps students enrolled. According to a [recent survey](#) that included over 17,000 parenting students, 86 percent of respondents reported that their child care arrangement was unaffordable, and among those who previously stopped out and later re-enrolled, 45% reported that one reason for leaving college was due to childcare. These funds cut the cost of childcare by over two-thirds a month for low-income parenting students. This significant cost difference could impact whether a student persists and completes their program of study or has to withdraw. Helping parenting students succeed in their postsecondary and career goals has a long-term and larger impact. Research shows that a [\\$3,000 increase](#) in a parent's earnings during early childhood yields a 17 percent increase in a [child's future earnings](#), providing dividends for the family unit and the American economy.

The CCAMPIS program is the only federal program dedicated to providing child care assistance for low-income students in postsecondary settings. Other available child care assistance, such as subsidies provided through the Child Care and Development Block Grant, are helpful sources of support but can be challenging for parenting students to access due to restrictive eligibility rules, wait lists, and limited funding.

Support from CCAMPIS enables students to persist toward and complete postsecondary credentials critical to their families' economic well-being, which are associated with various multigenerational benefits. Scaling up this program to serve a more significant percentage of Pell-eligible students with young children, improving their chances of postsecondary success.

We appreciate the continued inclusion of bill language waiving the CCAMPIS statutory maximum grant cap, which is essential to support the work of colleges and universities and their child care providers, especially at under-resourced institutions. We also appreciate the report language that directs the Department to require grantees to collect data on the number of parenting students enrolled at the institution, and to conduct a new grant competition. We urge Congress to maintain both the bill and report language for FY27.

We also encourage you to cosponsor and pass the bipartisan *Understanding Student Parent Outcomes Act* to require all colleges and universities to collect data on the number of parenting students they serve and their child care needs. This essential legislation would make it easier to identify whether and how many parenting students need support at the campus level, so that federal, state, and institutional resources can be allocated most effectively.

We are thankful for Congress's continued investment in CCAMPIS, allowing more parenting students to access much-needed affordable and reliable child care. We ask you to continue to support CCAMPIS in the FY 27 Labor-H appropriations bill and include a robust increase in funding moving the program toward the \$500 million needed.

Sincerely,

Today's Students Coalition

New America Higher Education Policy Program

The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs

Alray Scholars Program

American Association of University Women

Ascend at the Aspen Institute

Association of Community College Trustees

Associated Students Inc., California State University Dominguez Hills Child Development Center

Bruin Parenting Students

Bunker Hills Community College

California Community College Early Childhood Educators

Campaign for College Opportunity

Campus Compact

Capital Area College Access Network

Center for Law and Social Policy

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Coalition on Human Needs

College Career Advocates

College Unbound

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning

Cultivating Literacy

DCC Cares

Detroit Parent Network

Early Edge California

Education Design Lab

Education Trust

Feminist Majority Foundation

First Focus Campaign for Children

FirstGen Forward

Generation Hope

Grow Developing Childcare Professionals Inc.

Head Start East

Healthy Teen Network

Hildreth Institute

Igniting Change Through Compassion

InsideTrack

Institute for Higher Education Policy

Institute for Women's Policy Research

LeadMN

Maddy Day LLC & Associates

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Michigan State University Student Parent Resource Center

Micronesian Islander Community

Mount Mary University

Mount Wachusett Community College: Child Watch Service

NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

National Association for College Admission Counseling

National College Attainment Network

National Women's Law Center

New Mexico Basic Needs Consortium  
North Dakota Student Association  
One Family, Inc.  
PERG Learning  
Raise the Barr  
Regents of the University of California  
Riverside Center for Early Childhood  
Education  
SchoolHouse Connection  
Student Parent HELP Center, University of  
Minnesota  
Student Senate of California Community  
Colleges  
Student Veterans of America  
Students United  
Swipe out Hunger  
Teamer Strategy Group  
The Institute for College Access and  
Success  
The JED Foundation  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors  
Trellis Strategies  
UAspire  
UPCEA  
United Way of King County  
University of California Irvine Basic Needs  
Center  
UIC CCAMPIS/Little Sparks Program  
University of California Student Association  
University of Hawaii at Manoa Children's  
Center  
Washington State Postsecondary Basic  
Needs Coalition

Washington Student Achievement Council  
Washington Student Association  
Wishful Doing  
Women Employed  
Woodward Hines Education Foundation  
Young Invincibles

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