

# TALKING POINTS FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH LEGISLATORS

Ask: Will the Representative/Senator support at least \$50 billion for child care in Congress' coronavirus relief efforts?

A recent poll conducted in partnership by Child Care Aware® of America and Save the Children Action Network found that four in five voters support the child care industry receiving targeted financial assistance from the federal government to address the impact of COVID-19. ([Source](#))

**Message 1 – Child care is essential for many American families to be able to return to work. We need to ensure that all child care providers are able to open when it is safe to do so. To make that happen, we are urging Congress to provide at least \$50 billion in dedicated child care funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- In a July 2020 survey of more than 5,000 National Association of the Education for Young Children (NAEYC) accredited providers, 86 percent of those open reported operating at less than half of their enrollment capacity. Nationally, 18 percent of child care centers and 9 percent of family child care homes remain closed. ([Source](#))
- At the same time, upwards of 70 percent of child care centers are incurring substantial, additional costs for staff (72 percent), cleaning supplies (92 percent), and personal protective equipment (81 percent). ([Source](#))
- Closures as a result of the pandemic will impact working families, who may face a potential loss of up to 4.5 million child care slots. ([Source](#))
- A recent analysis estimates that at least \$9.6 billion is needed each month to stabilize our child care system and ensure it survives the pandemic. ([Source](#))
- A recent study by Child Care Aware® of America found that 71 percent of providers shared concerns with child care resource and referral agency staff over how and when to reopen facilities, 70 percent expressed worries over whether they can remain open after the pandemic, and 69 percent noted locating and purchasing necessary cleaning equipment as an issue. ([Source](#))

**Message 2 – There is no economic recovery without child care. Funding for child care is not only about immediate relief, additional federal investment in child care supports families’ return to work and the recovery of our economy.**

Dedicated funding for the child care system is needed to:

- Take steps to ensure that child care is affordable for all families;
- Support providers and build the supply of licensed, high-quality family and center-based child care programs;
- Ensure health and safety regulations in place are enforced, and ensure every child care program has the necessary supplies for future sanitation and mitigation efforts;
- Resource training and supports to address health and mental health needs; and
- Fund CCR&Rs to continue their consumer education, resource and referral roles, and invest in their efforts to build the infrastructure of the child care system.

