**SAMPLE EMAIL LANGUAGE**

**Subject:** Congress must approve sustained investment in child care

Dear **[STAFFER]**,

My name is **[NAME]** and I live in **[MEMBER OF CONGRESS]**'s **[district/state]**. I'm writing today to urge you to ensure Congress approves a significant and sustained investment in America’s child care and early learning system.

**[Get personal—insert a brief background about yourself and the role your organization plays in the child care system. Share any qualitative and/or quantitative data you have about the landscape of child care now, what it looked like before the pandemic and throughout the last 18 months.]**

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed an already fragile system over the edge, exacerbating longstanding challenges of accessibility, affordability, and supply and demand in child care. Years of underinvestment resulted in the supply of quality child care in the United States decreasing while families struggled to afford the high cost of quality care. Child care providers, who were already earning poverty-level wages before the pandemic, were forced to take on personal debt and face financial hardships while continuing to provide care during the pandemic for working families who desperately depend on them. The global health crisis has emphasized again and again how important child care— despite being severely underfunded over the years— is for children, working families, and the economy.

Child care relief funds over the last year have provided critical support for stabilizing child care programs and preventing more programs from permanent closure, but these funds are just the beginning of what's needed to recover and rebuild after decades of underfunding. Without a more permanent long-term investment, this leaves the future of child care unpredictable for providers, families, employers, and communities.

We must commit to building a better system. I strongly urge you to ensure that the final reconciliation bill includes a significant, sustained investment in child care and preschool. We must guarantee access to high-quality, affordable child care for the families that struggle most and support a mixed-delivery system that gives all families the opportunity to choose the type of care that meets their needs. With investments in child care and preschool, more families will have access to affordable, high-quality options, if and when they need it.

I’d be happy to answer any questions you have about what’s happening on the ground in **[STATE]**.

Thank you,

**[NAME]**