

# Write a Letter to the Editor

Tell Congress: Dedicate \$50 billion for kids and child care!

**Letters to the editor are important tools for advocates like you.** They influence the press's coverage of issues facing Washington's kids and families; legislators read them; and they raise public awareness among fellow readers in your area.

## Three tips:

- Keep it short: 150 words or fewer;
- Speak your mind: the best letters come from the heart;
- Make it personal: how does access to quality child care affect you, your family or your community?

## A few key messages:

1. *Give kids the building blocks of learning:* Children need strong, stable relationships to protect their safety and promote their healthy growth and development. This is especially true in times like these, when children count on their caregivers to help them adapt to change.
2. *Support our economic recovery:* Statewide high-quality early learning programs with qualified teachers are a critical part of our economic foundation. Without state and federal support, the very people families and businesses depend upon to allow parents to work might no longer be there, and economic recovery will be harder to achieve. We must rebuild our system to ensure that all families have access to high-quality, affordable child care provided by educators who are paid what they deserve. It's essential for our economic recovery.
3. *We all want kids, families, businesses and communities to emerge from this crisis stronger than ever.* But we've lost 35 percent of Washington state's child care capacity. Without greater investments, we risk the disintegration of our child care infrastructure, leaving children, families, and the child care workforce with no system to return to.

## Sample letter (66 words) – ready for you to customize!

To the Editor:

What began as a health crisis has become an economic crisis, and it's impacting our children. Across the country and here in Washington, a huge percentage of child care providers have shut down. And without help some won't return.

[Insert 1-2 sentences about why this matters to you.]

Congress can help. Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ should support investments of at least \$50 billion in dedicated funding for child care in the next COVID-19 relief legislation.

Otherwise, when jobs return, will the care be there?

Sincerely,

Full name, address, phone, e-mail [the publication will only print your name and city/town of residence]

## **Where to send your letter:**

You can send the same letter to more than one newspaper. The state Secretary of State maintains a [detailed list](#) of community newspapers.

### **Seattle and King County:**

[Seattle Times](#): [letters@seattletimes.com](mailto:letters@seattletimes.com)

[Reporter publications](#): letters may be submitted to member newspapers throughout western Washington

[NW Asian Weekly](#)

[International Examiner](#)

### **Pierce, Thurston, Lewis County:**

[News Tribune \(Tacoma\)](#)

[Tacoma Weekly](#)

[Olympian](#)

[Centralia Chronicle](#)

### **Snohomish County and NW Washington**

[The Herald \(Everett\)](#): [letters@heraldnet.com](mailto:letters@heraldnet.com)

[Whidbey News-Times](#)

[North County Outlook](#) (Marysville, Arlington)

[Stanwood Camano News](#)

[Bellingham Herald](#)

### **Central and Eastern Washington:**

[Spokane Spokesman-Review](#)

[The Inlander](#)

[Black Lens](#)

[Yakima Herald Republic](#)

[Walla Walla Union-Bulletin](#)

**Kitsap & Olympic Peninsula:**

[Kitsap Sun](#)

[Peninsula Daily News](#)

[Port Townsend Leader: news@ptleader.com](#)

**Southwest Washington and Pacific Coast:**

[The Daily News](#) (Longview)

[The Reflector](#) (Battle Ground)

[The Columbian](#) (Vancouver)

[Chinook Observer](#) (Long Beach)