



## CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

*A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families*

October 6, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee:

We are writing to thank you for your recognition that the road to recovery from the coronavirus recession runs straight through a strong, viable early learning system.

The state's release of CARES Act funding is a critical lifeline to providers of child care across Washington, helping these small businesses and nonprofit organizations to remain open and serve our communities. Child care is the business that powers business: without it, many of the 1 in 6 Washington workers who are also raising young children couldn't stay on the job.

Earlier this spring, the state used CARES Act resources to help providers to remain open and reopen, making crucial care available to frontline workers. Still, the investment was not enough to stabilize the system, and many providers have closed, potentially permanently. We continue to advocate for significant additional federal relief for the industry, along with our partners across the country.

Child care providers are essential, frontline workers. Low-income workers of color, predominately women, are the engine powering our early learning system, but they all too often struggle with low pay, lack of health coverage and a dearth of basic necessities like personal protective equipment (PPE). As we reckon with our country's legacy of anti-Black racism, it's critical to release the CARES Act funding expeditiously and equitably. We applaud you for moving forward.

In particular, we are deeply grateful that you are prioritizing \$78.1 million in additional dollars for critical early learning supports, including child care grants to help child care providers stay open and reopen; providing ongoing family copay assistance, caseload and per capita increases; and, expanding Working Connections Child Care subsidy slots. Each of these will positively impact the system.

During this unprecedented time, we are stronger when we work together, and we thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Stephan Blanford  
Executive Director  
Children's Alliance

cc: OFM Director David Schumacher  
DCYF Secretary Ross Hunter  
Senator Christine Rolfes  
Representative Timm Ormsby