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October 26, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

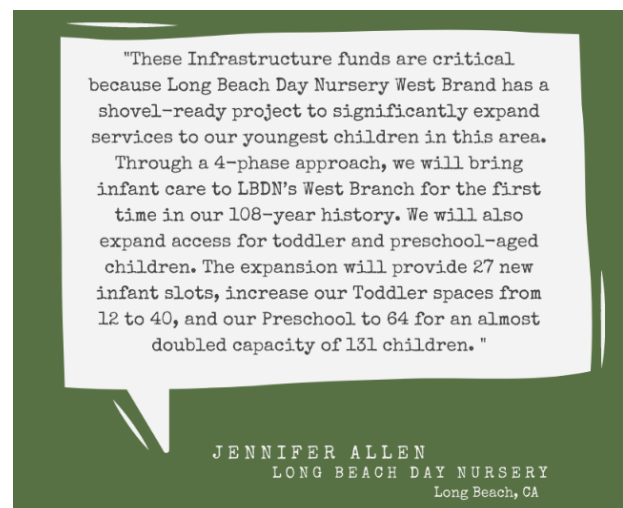
The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Re: Build Back Better - The Need for Investment in Child Care Physical Facilities

As negotiations on the Build Back Better Act advance, **we urge Congress to invest at least \$15 billion for child care infrastructure grants as part of the Build Back Better bill, following the example provided by the House Ways and Means Committee.** These grants can be used to acquire, construct, and renovate facilities and are accompanied by critical technical assistance and capacity-building support from experienced intermediaries.

While funding the other aspects of the child care system, like the workforce, continue to be crucial, funding for facilities' physical infrastructure is especially critical. The messages below illustrate the great need for investment in child care facilities in our communities:



President Biden acknowledged the importance of physical spaces by proposing \$25 billion to improve early learning facilities in the American Jobs Plan. Investments seeking to increase child care affordability, accessibility, and workforce compensation will have limited success without an adequate supply of physical facilities to operate child care programs and ensure children's and educators' health and safety.

Failure to establish a standalone investment in a child care facility infrastructure grants program in this once-in-a-generation reconciliation package will only perpetuate structural inequities. This funding will support low-income and BIPOC communities to mitigate pandemic conditions, address learning loss, support the workforce, and create jobs by providing safe and resilient center-based and home-based programs where children and families thrive.

In California, demand far exceeds the supply for high-quality child care, particularly for low-income families. Based on information from the American Institutes for Research, there is an estimated gap of over 482,248 child care slots just for children from low-income families. Our early care and education facilities infrastructure serve less than a quarter of our state's youngest learners. Before the pandemic, [60% of all California's children lived in a child care desert](#). The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the state's ECE capacity problem. These numbers equate to real Californians who must find alternative care arrangements or forgo employment opportunities to stay home to care for their children.

As negotiations advance, we urge you to speak directly with Senator Murray (D-WA) and emphasize the importance of dedicated, standalone child care facility infrastructure grants as a critical element of the budget reconciliation bill. These resources are essential to realizing the full benefits of the Build Back Better Plan's investments in the child care ecosystem.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and support for the child care sector. Enclosed you will find an informative brief by the Bipartisan Policy Center with more information about the importance of these investments. Please count on our partnership and contact us with any questions and requests for additional data at buildupca@liifund.org.

Sincerely,

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Cc.: California Governor Gavin Newsom, California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, California's Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins, Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R), Congressman Jared Huffman (D); Congressman John Garamendi (D), Congressman Tom McClintock (R), Congressman Mike Thompson (D), Congressman Doris Matsui (D), Congressman Ami Bera (D), Congressman Jay Obernolte (R), Congressman Jerry McNerney (D), Congressman Josh Harder (D), Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D), Congressman Nancy Pelosi (D), Congressman Barbara Lee (D), Congressman Jackie Speier (D), Congressman Eric Swalwell (D), Congressman Jim Costa (D), Congressman Ro Khanna (D), Congressman Anna Eshoo (D), Congressman Zoe Lofgren (D), Congressman Jimmy Panetta (D), Congressman David Valadao, Congressman Devin Nunes (R), Congressman Salud Carbajal (D), Congressman Mike Garcia (R), Congressman Julia Brownley (D), Congressman Judy Chu (D), Congressman Adam Schiff (D), Congressman Tony Cárdenas (D), Congressman Brad Sherman (D), Congressman Pete Aguilar (D), Congressman Grace Napolitano (D), Congressman Ted Lieu (D), Congressman Jimmy Gomez (D), Congressman Norma Torres (D), Congressman Raul Ruiz (D), Congressman Karen Bass (D), Congressman Linda Sánchez (D), Congressman Young Kim (R), Congressman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D), Congressman Mark Takano (D), Congressman Ken Calvert (R), Congressman Maxine Waters (D), Congressman Nanette Barragan (D), Congressman Katie Porter (D), Congressman Lou Correa (D), Congressman Alan Lowenthal (D), Congressman Michelle Steel (R), Congressman Mike Levin (D), Congressman Darrell Issa (R), Congressman Juan Vargas (D), Congressman Scott Peters (D), Congressman Sara Jacobs (D).