

INVESTING IN KIDS IS INVESTING IN AMERICA

Prioritize Kids. Strengthen America's Future.

Why It Matters

In 2026, as families continue to face uncertainty and rising costs, we urge Congress and state leaders to make a simple, powerful commitment:

Invest in America's future by investing in our kids.

When children have access to quality early learning, nutrition, and care, our entire nation benefits, economically and socially, for generations to come. When we protect and strengthen these investments, we build stronger families and a stronger America.

The Case for Investment

- **90% of brain development happens before age 5.** Early learning builds the foundation for lifelong success.
- **Every \$1 invested in early childhood programs returns up to \$13** in economic benefits through higher earnings, better health, and reduced public spending.
- **Child care shortages cost the U.S. economy an estimated \$122 billion each year** in lost productivity and revenue.
- **Parents can't work without affordable, reliable care**—and employers can't thrive without working parents.

Current Reality

Across the country, child care and early learning programs remain underfunded. Without sustainable investment, millions of families risk losing access to affordable care—and children risk missing the early learning experiences that set them up for success.

We can't afford to scale back when the strength of our economy and our communities depend on these investments.

Our Requests

- 1. Support and pass the Child Care Modernization Act**, which reauthorizes the **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)**—the main federal law supporting child care for low-income working families.
- 2. Champion child-focused policies** at every level of government—because investing in kids is investing in America's future.

Bipartisan Values, Shared Impact

This is not a partisan issue — it's an American one. Strong early learning and family support systems benefit every community, rural and urban alike.

Investing in children means investing in:

- Stronger families
- A more competitive workforce
- A healthier, more resilient nation

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