

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tammy
Baldwin Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related
Agencies

The Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related
Agencies

Dear Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairwoman Baldwin, and Ranking Member Capito,

As 60 organizations, institutions, and advocates committed to promoting the postsecondary success of college students with children, we are writing to express our strong support for increasing funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Program to \$500 million—the amount needed to provide child care support to approximately 6 percent of Pell-eligible parenting students of children ages 0-5. CCAMPIS offers vital support for the participation and success of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of subsidized child care and is widely recognized as one of the most important supports for parenting college students.

Parenting students—many of whom are also working—are striving to provide a better life for themselves and their children. Federal data indicate that more than [4.1 million](#) parenting students are enrolled in higher education in the United States today, representing more than 18 percent of undergraduates and 28 percent of all graduate and professional students. Unfortunately, parenting students, particularly those who are single, face acute financial, work, or caregiving demands that can complicate their ability to persist to graduation. The many challenges they face balancing child care, academics, one job or several jobs, and precarious finances can hinder their ability to persist in higher education.

Parenting students [report](#) they are more likely to cancel or pause their educational journeys than students without children, and [research](#) has demonstrated that parenting students are less likely to graduate despite having higher grades. However, studies also show that parenting students who are able to use on-campus child care have more than [triple](#) the rates of on-time graduation. Despite the substantial need among parenting students, the benefits of on-campus child care for student success, and this committee's investments in other parts of the child care system, the number of colleges with on-campus child care has actually [declined](#) over the past two decades.

Increasing CCAMPIS funding to \$500 million in the Labor-HHS-ED appropriations bill would ensure that roughly 100,000 more parenting college students receive the child care assistance they need to continue their educational journeys and be successful in college.

As is highlighted in the recently passed bipartisan *S. Res. 374* designating September as [National Student Parent Month](#), parenting students are a growing student population, uniquely motivated to excel in their programs of study despite the many challenges they face. Many of these parenting students are balancing college and parenting without the support of a spouse or partner: 1.7 million women in college are single mothers. Parenting students are more likely than other students to live in poverty and incur substantial student debt—largely due to the high cost of child care.

Access to affordable child care is essential to help parenting students succeed in college. Data from one [community college](#) show, for example, that parenting students who were able to access the campus child care center were more than three times more likely to graduate on time compared to parenting students who didn't utilize the center. Parenting students face elevated rates of food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness, and more than [three in four](#) say child care is unaffordable. These burdens do not fall on all students equally; according to a [survey](#) of parenting students at HBCUS, 80 percent of respondents reported that their child care arrangement was unaffordable, and Black and Latine parenting students struggle at even [higher](#) rates. Without affordable child care, parenting students are often forced to make tough decisions about their enrollment.

The median price of child care for all parenting students is around [\\$500](#) a month, but CCAMPIS reduces that cost to around \$160 a month for low income parenting students. This significant cost difference could impact whether or not a student persists and completes their program of study or has to withdraw. Helping parenting students succeed in their postsecondary and career goals has a long-term and more significant impact. Research shows that a [\\$3,000 increase](#) in a parent's earnings during early childhood yields a 17 percent increase in a child's future earnings, providing dividends for the family unit and the American economy.

The CCAMPIS program is the only federal program dedicated to providing child care assistance for low-income students in postsecondary settings. Other available child care assistance, such as subsidies provided through the Child Care and Development Block Grant and Head Start, are essential sources of support and available to many student parents but can be challenging for parenting students to access due to restrictive eligibility rules such as work requirements, degree limitations, and underfunding of these programs.

CCAMPIS helps meet students' need for low-cost, high-quality child care. This support enables them to persist toward and complete postsecondary credentials critical to their families' economic well-being, associated with various multigenerational benefits. Scaling up this program to serve a larger percentage of Pell-eligible students with young children would allow CCAMPIS to reach 100,000 more students, significantly improving their chances of postsecondary success. This critical investment will also stabilize the campus child care sector, which provides a lifeline to college opportunities for students with children.

We are thankful for the progress Congress has made recently to move CCAMPIS, including the bill language you have included since FY 2022, waiving the restrictive statutory grant cap to make the program more valuable for the colleges that receive it. We urge you to continue to increase your investment in CCAMPIS and by increasing funding for the CCAMPIS Program to \$500 million in the FY2025 Labor-H appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

The Today's Students Coalition
Higher Learning Advocates
The Hope Center at Temple University
America Forward
Bread for the World
California Competes
Campaign for College Opportunity
Center for First-generation Student Success
Center for Law and Policy
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
College Unbound
Complete College America
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
Education Reform Now
Feminist Majority Foundation
First Focus Campaign for Children
Generation Hope
Healthy Teen Network
Hildreth Institute
Institute for Higher Education Policy
Jeremiah Program
Jobs for the Future
John Burton Advocates for Youth
Joliet Junior College
LIFT
Maryland Hunger Solutions
NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs
National College Attainment Network
National Skills Coalition
National Women's Law Center
New America Center for Education and Labor, Higher Education Program
New Mexico Basic Needs Consortium
Northern Illinois University
One Family

PERG Learning
Project Self-Sufficiency
RISE
Save the Children
SchoolHouse Connection
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Student Veterans of America
Swipe Out Hunger
Teamer Strategy Group
The Education Trust
The Education Trust - West
The Institute for College Access and Success
The Pregnant Scholar
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
UAspire
University of California Students Association
University of California System
UPCEA
Women Employed
Young Invincibles

Individuals

Dominique Baker, Parent Advisor, Ascend at the Aspen Institute
Karlee Knuth, Parent Advisor, Ascend at the Aspen Institute
Kimberly Salazar, Parent Advisor, Ascend at the Aspen Institute
Pam Eddinger, President, Bunker Hill Community College