NCFN Endorses Care Economy Resolution

April 21, 2022

The National Children's Facilities Network (NCFN) applauds Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-1) for leading the effort to introduce <u>H.Res. 1036</u>: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all young children and families should have access to high-quality, affordable childcare and early education. NCFN strongly endorses the sense that the House of Representative should pass robust child care legislation that will stabilize the child care industry.

In recent years, increases in federal funding for child care and early learning programs has helped many families across the country access quality care. Despite these historical investments, gaps and challenges persist in this sector, impacting millions of families' ability to provide their children with safe spaces where they can learn, grow, and thrive. For instance, there is currently no dedicated source of federal funding to address the condition, quality, and availability of child care facilities. Facilities have a huge impact on the health of children and teachers and play a crucial role in fostering a quality care environment. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the negative implications of a lack of dedicated child care facilities funding. Many providers continue to face major challenges related to the health, safety, quality, and sustainability of their facility.

We strongly support Representative Bonamici's willingness to address child care infrastructure issues by ensuring that Congress passes legislation that will invest in long overdue infrastructure upgrades to improve the quality of child care.

For additional information about NCFN's work in this space, please contact Nicole Barcliff, NCFN Co-Chair, LISC Policy Director at nbarcliff@lisc.org or (202) 739-9296 or Angie Garling, NCFN Co-chair, LIIF Vice President, Early Care and Education Programs at agarling@liifund.org or (415) 489-6116 Ext 316 with any questions.

About NCFN

The National Children's Facilities Network (NCFN) is a coalition of more than 70 nonprofit Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), financial and technical assistance intermediaries, and child care stakeholders dedicated to helping ECE providers develop high-quality physical learning environments and sustainable business models. By providing technical assistance and financing to early learning providers, we seek to address capital needs and business capacity challenges that limit working family's ability to gain equitable access to high-quality ECE programs.

NCFN works to generate federal resources that support the development and improvement of early childhood facilities in underserved communities nationwide. The Network collaborates with other children's advocacy leaders concerned with addressing the supply and quality of early childhood facilities across the country.

For more information, visit www.ncfn.org.