



NAFCC Supports the *Child Care Access to Resources for Early-learning Act (Child C.A.R.E. Act)*

Salt Lake City (February 10, 2016): Today, the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) issued a statement in support of *The Child Care Access to Resources for Early-learning Act (Child C.A.R.E. Act)*, designed to ensure that low-income families with infants and toddlers have access to high quality child care.

"The urgency of access to affordable, reliable, high-quality child care is clear. Parents cannot work without child care, and early learning opportunities – *and the quality of those opportunities* - matter to young children. Unfortunately, families continue to struggle to access the kind of care they need, and the numbers of licensed family child care providers are declining, at a time when communities need family child care the most. We can turn this reality around, however, when we make child care investment a priority," said Eva Daniels, Executive Director of NAFCC.

The Child C.A.R.E. Act, introduced by Senator Casey (D-PA) and Representatives Crowley (D-NY) and Frankel (D-FL) calls for new investments in the Child Care and Development Block Grant that would:

- ensure families with children under the age of four who are living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level can access high-quality child care through the subsidy program;
- ensure that CCDBG provider payment rates are set at a level high enough to support quality child care and to fairly compensate providers;
- assist child care providers in moving forward on a pathway that invests in strengthening their skills, knowledge, and practice.

"Family child care providers offer a strong foundation for families and communities. The Child C.A.R.E. Act will help families access the high-quality care they need, when and where they need it. The Child C.A.R.E. Act is an investment in child care that will strengthen the system we have and make more choices available to more families who are counting on us," said Daniels.

"Thank you to Senator Casey, Representative Crowley and Representative Frankel for this bold action for child care. We look forward to working with Congress to keep moving forward for families," said Daniels.

"Over 222,000 family child care providers receive CCDF funds. By investing in child care providers, this bill opens a pathway to achieve and sustain quality care and learning opportunities for young children. We appreciate that this bill acknowledges the crucial work and role of the providers themselves. We also appreciate that this bill takes a step forward on behalf of child care providers that offer care at non-traditional hours, providing crucial services for today's working families," noted Daniels.

The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) is the professional association promoting high-quality early childhood experiences in family child care settings. NAFCC also leads the research-based, nationally recognized family child care accreditation. NAFCC members operate across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Family child care is an essential component to advancing high-quality early care and education opportunities in the United States. NAFCC is working to prioritize the role of family child care and promote access, affordability and quality of early care and education. Where policy opportunities permit, family child care providers partner to deliver publicly-funded preK and participate in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems. Family child care programs enroll families who pay with assistance (subsidy), and support families who are often challenged to find high-quality, reliable child care, including those in need of care in non-traditional work hours and in rural communities. Visit www.nafcc.org for more information.

Media contact: Mary Beth Testa, [\(202\) 465-6278](tel:(202)465-6278), policy@nafcc.org