



June 2, 2026

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 5 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), and Service Employees International Union (SEIU), we write collectively in opposition to Stop Child Care Scams Act (H.R. 7726), which purports to address allegations of fraud in child care programs. This bill would enable the administration to withdraw federal childcare funds abruptly without cause, making childcare less affordable and reliable for working families. This legislation would also make it even more difficult for struggling childcare providers to keep their doors open. We urge you to vote no on H.R. 7726.

Our unions represent family childcare providers, childcare centers, programs and services, and preschool employees. Some of these programs span traditional working hours and others operate well beyond the traditional work day to accommodate parents who are healthcare workers on 12-hour shifts, service members working on bases that operate 24/7, construction workers who are onsite by 7:00 a.m., and other working parents who work outside the once traditional 9 to 5. Many providers already operate on razor-thin margins, working long hours, overseeing staff and making personal financial sacrifices, like delaying their own pay, to keep their doors open and meet payroll. Constant funding disruptions to childcare will force many providers to reduce services or close altogether. They deserve better and more timely pay rather than additional delays and uncertainty. This vital component of our workforce needs certainty and steady funding to provide the care needed for America's working families.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration, abruptly and without justification, illegally withheld funding for more than 300,000 children in more than 44,000 childcare programs in five states funded by the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).¹ Another 200,000 children who do not receive childcare assistance but rely on programs that do, may have also been affected. Unions and other allies swiftly challenged these actions in court. Multiple courts ordered the administration to reverse course.² Now, H.R. 7726 would amend current law to allow these politically motivated, baseless and deeply harmful funding freezes to resume.

CCDBG is a critically important program for infants and toddlers, preschoolers, school-aged children, and a crucial workforce support. Reliable, consistent childcare funding from the

¹ The Century Foundation: Trump's Child Care Funding Freeze in Five States Could Cost Families \$400 Million (1/8/26): <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/trumps-child-care-funding-freeze-in-five-states-could-cost-families-400-million/>

² Courthouse News Service: California judge issues injunction blocking feds from freezing \$10 billion in child care funding (3/31/26): <https://www.courthousenews.com/california-judge-issues-injunction-blocking-feds-from-freezing-10-billion-in-child-care-funding/>

federal government is essential to ensure that parents can work while their children are well-cared for and gain critical skills for continued education and success. CCDBG also supports school-aged children in before and after care. Further, childcare programs, both centers and family childcare, need the assurance of stable, consistent funding so that their work can continue.

CCDBG has enjoyed bipartisan support with champions from both parties because the investments pay off and the program is run well. CCDBG is one of the most closely monitored human services programs with states required to submit detailed plans to the federal government, track eligibility, conduct regular provider inspections and report spending to the federal government. The most recent report from the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Child Care's National Center on Subsidy Innovation and Accountability showed that CCDBG had lower rates of improper payments than other programs.³ As a reminder, improper payments include errors that cannot be solely classified as fraud, such as inadvertent error.

H.R. 7726 further empowers the administration in its attempts to weaponize the distribution of congressionally appropriated funds. Instead, Congress should ensure that enacted funding is distributed lawfully and without delays due to political motivations. We urge you to oppose H.R. 7726 and focus on ways to make childcare more affordable for millions of working families.

Sincerely,

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Kristor Cowan
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John Gray
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ESW/KC/JG:dmg

³ <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/center/national-center-subsidy-innovation-and-accountability>