October 27, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Re: Build Back Better - The Need for Investment in Child Care Physical Facilities

As negotiations on the Build Back Better Act advance, we urge Congress to invest at least $15 billion for child care infrastructure grants as part of the Build Back Better bill, following the example provided by the House Ways and Means Committee. These grants can be used to acquire, construct, and renovate facilities and are accompanied by critical technical assistance and capacity-building support from experienced intermediaries.

While funding the other aspects of the child care system, like the workforce, continue to be crucial, funding for facilities’ physical infrastructure is especially critical. The messages below illustrate the great need for investment in child care facilities in our communities:
President Biden acknowledged the importance of physical spaces by proposing $25 billion to improve early learning facilities in the American Jobs Plan. Investments seeking to increase child care affordability, accessibility, and workforce compensation will have limited success without an adequate supply of physical facilities to operate child care programs and ensure children's and educators' health and safety.

Failure to establish a standalone investment in a child care facility infrastructure grants program in this once-in-a-generation reconciliation package will only perpetuate structural inequities. This funding will support low-income and BIPOC communities to mitigate pandemic conditions, address learning loss, support the workforce, and create jobs by providing safe and resilient center-based and home-based programs where children and families thrive.

In California, demand far exceeds the supply for high-quality child care, particularly for low-income families. Based on information from the American Institutes for Research, there is an estimated gap of over 482,248 child care slots just for children from low-income families. Our early care and education facilities infrastructure serve less than a quarter of our state's youngest learners. Before the pandemic, 60% of all California's children lived in a child care desert. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the state's ECE capacity problem. These numbers equate to real Californians who must find alternative care arrangements or forgo employment opportunities to stay home to care for their children.

As negotiations advance, we urge you to speak directly with Senator Murray (D-WA) and emphasize the importance of dedicated, standalone child care facility infrastructure grants as a critical element of the budget reconciliation bill. These resources are essential to realizing the full benefits of the Build Back Better Plan's investments in the child care ecosystem.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and support for the child care sector. Enclosed you will find an informative brief by the Bipartisan Policy Center with more information about the importance of these investments. Please count on our partnership and contact us with any questions and requests for additional data at buildupca@liifund.org.

Sincerely,

Build Up California (continued on next page)
Alameda County First 5
Apple Tree Children Center
Brion Economics, Inc.
Build Up San Mateo County
CS Children’s School
Chicano Federation
Child Care Business Institute
Children’s Resource & Referral of Santa Barbara County
Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County
Crystal Stairs, Inc.
Eileen Monahan Consulting
Ephesian Children’s Center
Fairfax-San Anselmo Children’s Center
Family Child Care Association of San Francisco
Felton Institute
First 5 Sonoma County
Footsteps Child Care, Inc.
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
Kidango
Little Tokyo Service Center
Long Beach Day Nursery
Mission Driven Finance
Mission Neighborhood Centers
Only Love Children’s Center
PEACH, Early Childhood Higher Education Collaborative
Peninsula Solidarity Network
San Francisco Child Care Planning & Advisory Council (CPAC)
Say San Diego
Studio Montessori
The Cross Cultural Family Center

Cc.: California Governor Gavin Newsom, California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, California’s Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins, Congressmember Doug LaMalfa (R), Congressmember Jared Huffman (D); Congressmember John Garamendi (D), Congressmember Tom McClintock (R), Congressmember Mike Thompson (D), Congressmember Doris Matsui (D), Congressmember Ami Bera (D), Congressmember Jay Odronce (R), Congressmember Jerry Mcnerney (D), Congressmember Josh Harder (D), Congressmember Mark DeSaulnier (D), Congressmember Nancy Pelosi (D), Congressmember Barbara Lee (D), Congressmember Jackie Speier (D), Congressmember Eric Swalwell (D), Congressmember Jim Costa (D), Congressmember Ro Khanna (D), Congressmember Anna Eshoo (D), Congressmember Zoe Lofgren (D), Congressmember Jimmy Panetta (D), Congressmember David Valadao (D), Congressmember Devin Nunes (R), Congressmember Salud Carbajal (D), Congressmember Mike Garcia (R), Congressmember Julia Brownley (D), Congressmember Judy Chu (D), Congressmember Adam Schiff (D), Congressmember Tony Cárdenas (D), Congressmember Brad Sherman (D), Congressmember Mike Garcia (R), Congressmember Grace Napolitano (D), Congressmember Ted Lieu (D), Congressmember Jimmy Gomez (D), Congressmember Norma Torres (D), Congressmember Raul Ruiz (D), Congressmember Karen Bass (D), Congressmember Linda Sánchez (D), Congressmember Young Kim (R), Congressmember Lucille Roybal-Allard (D), Congressmember Mark Takano (D), Congressmember Ken Calvert (R), Congressmember Maxine Waters (D), Congressmember Nanette Barragan (D), Congressmember Katie Porter (D), Congressmember Lou Correa (D), Congressmember Alan Lowen al (D), Congressmember Michelle Steel (R), Congressmember Mike Levin (D), Congressmember Darrell Issa (R), Congressmember Juan Vargas (D), Congressmember Scott Peters (D), Congressmember Sara Jacobs (D).