Hello,

I am (name, and position in the community-business name, non child care business name, parent, community member, etc.) This pandemic has brought many issues into clear focus. One of these issues is child care.

The child care industry is the backbone of the U.S. economy. Parents of 6.4 million children need child care in order to get back to work. In fact, the child care industry contributes approximately $100 billion to our economy and employs more than 1.5 million people. A study by the Council for a Strong America found that our nation’s economy loses approximately 57 billion dollars annually due to lack of child care. This doesn’t even take into account the lack of quality costs our country. Quality child care brings $7-14 back for every dollar spent. (add a short anecdote here if applicable about your program, community, ability to work, # of employees you would lose without child care)

Prior to the coronavirus an inability to find qualified teachers led to high turnover and group centers with waitlists, but empty rooms because high quality and highly qualified teachers left to work in k-12 schools, and family child care centers closing. Now, as aging or high risk public school teachers begin to exit our public school systems, our child care centers will lose even more of the highest qualified teachers to the better paying and benefits that public schools can afford to offer. We will also lose many of our family child care programs and teachers due to high risks as well-especially since the average wage is $11.56-this varies widely by state and lack of health insurance will drive them to other career opportunities.

According to a recent Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) national survey, 87% of voters support direct federal assistance for child care providers so they can meet payroll and pay rent and utilities during this crisis so they remain available now and in the future.

Surveys done across the nation are showing that up to 50% of child care programs will close without significant intervention by state and federal governments.

(add your story of how this will impact your program, community, business).

Finally, I ask that you support legislation name/bill number in order to support child care programs during these times (reason why).

Sincerely,

Name, address,