

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

[[DATE]]

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin,

We write to express our strong support for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program and to request robust funding for it in the fiscal year 2027 appropriations bill. The CCAMPIS program helps ensure that low-income parenting students complete their postsecondary education by to meeting their needs for affordable and convenient child care.

More than four million college students are parents of dependent children, representing nearly one in five undergraduates and nearly a quarter of graduate and professional students in the United States.¹ Parenting students struggle to pay for child care on top of the growing cost of tuition, fees, course materials, housing, food, transportation, hygiene and other expenses. Access to affordable child care on or near campus is one of the most important supports that can help parenting students succeed in college.

Established in 1998 by Congress, the CCAMPIS program is the only federal program dedicated solely to providing child care assistance for low-income students in postsecondary settings. While we are grateful for the bipartisan support that has provided for the CCAMPIS program in recent fiscal years, the current level of funding for the CCAMPIS program represents a small fraction of student demand for affordable and high-quality on-campus childcare. Increasing funding for the CCAMPIS program will help to meet the expansive and urgent needs of millions of parenting students enrolled in higher education who are working to attain a degree, certificate, or credential to provide economic security for themselves and their families. This includes new students who are enrolled in our nation's community colleges under the new Workforce Pell Grant.

We strongly urge you to prioritize funding for the CCAMPIS program and provide robust funding as part of the fiscal year 2027 appropriations bill. We also ask you to again include bill language to waive the arbitrarily low maximum grant cap and to continue report language to strengthen the grant's effectiveness and reach. Providing adequate child care resources to parenting students will help to improve both college completion and affordability.

¹ Analysis of data from the National Center for Education Statistics, "National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 2019-20" by the SPARK Collaborative, September 2024. Retrieved from <https://studentparentaction.org/resources/data-insights>.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

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[[SIGNATURES]]