

Talking Points

Child Care for Working Families Act

National Council of Jewish Women's (NCJW) Message

NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families. As such, we support the reimagined and strengthened Child Care for Working Families Act (HR 2976/S 1354), introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA), which would make high-quality child care affordable for families nationwide. Child care in the United States is inaccessible and unaffordable for many working families. **Congress must pass the Child Care for Working Families Act to further invest in care infrastructure, which will reduce costs for families, support early childhood learning and development, bolster the childcare workforce, and address racial and gender disparities in the care system.**

- **Child care in the United States does not meet the needs of all families.** Nationwide, many families lack access to affordable, high-quality child care. The cost of child care has increased by 220% over the last three decades, forcing countless families to make impossible choices between going to work and paying for child care. Furthermore, child care workers earn poverty-level wages and do not receive the pay or support necessary to engage in this critical work resulting in over half of families now living in a child care desert as child care businesses across the country struggle to stay open.
- **Current federal funding through the Child Care Development Block Grant does not serve all families who need support.** Data from the Department of Health and Human Services shows that states subsidized care for only about 16% of federally eligible low-income children in FY19. The lack of public investment in childcare hurts families and our economy — on average, the US economy loses \$122 billion each year due to lost wages and revenues because workers are not able to access the childcare they need.
- **The Child Care for Working Families Act would address longstanding inequities in child care and early education for families and providers.** The bill would ensure that no working family pays more than seven percent of their income on child care; provide grants to help open new child care centers in underserved communities; increase child care options for children who receive care during non-traditional hours, dual-language learners, children experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care; support higher wages for child care workers; expand access to high-quality pre-K programs; provide funding to Head Start programs; and provide grants to states to help defray child care providers' costs.