

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, April 22, 2021
CONTACT: Brett Abrams | brett@unbendablemedia.com

ParentsTogether Celebrates Introduction of Child Care for Working Families Act

Says Legislation, Coupled with Making the Child Tax Credit Permanent, Would Be a Huge Boon to Families Struggling to Make the Best Life for their Kids

WASHINGTON, DC -- Today, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee and Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA-03), Chair of the House Education and Labor Committee, introduced the *Child Care for Working Families Act*, comprehensive legislation to address the child care crisis and ensure that working families can find and afford high-quality child care.

In reaction to the bills introduction, Justin Ruben, co-director of ParentsTogether, a national organization that advocates on behalf of its 2.5m members across the country, issued the following statement, praising the legislation:

“Expanding access to quality child care and making it more affordable for working families is critical to the success of our nation’s families, America’s kids, and our economic security. We applaud Senator Murray and Rep. Scott for their comprehensive approach to our national childcare crisis.

“Right now, the lack of quality, affordable child care is a massive challenge for families and a huge drag on our economy. During the pandemic, this has only gotten worse--parents reported that [42% of families had lost income when they had to stop working and provide child care](#). These same families were still paying exorbitant costs to hold their children’s spots at the few quality child care centers available in their communities. In order to get people back to work, and ensure that our kids are set up for success - we need bold investments to support families and make sure quality childcare is accessible to all.

“This legislation, coupled with making permanent the Child Checks that come from the monthly expanded child tax credit, would together create the single largest investments that our country has ever made in our children’s future--one that will pay dividends for generations to come.

“We urge Congress to quickly take up this important legislation and move swiftly to ensure its passage.”

Specifically, the Child Care for Working Families Act would:

- **Make child care more affordable for working families**, by creating a federal-state partnership to provide financial assistance for working families with children ages 0-13. Under the bill:

- No working family under 150 percent of state median income would pay more than seven percent of their income on child care.
- Families earning above 75 percent of state median income would pay their fair share for care on a sliding scale.
- Families under 75 percent of the state median income would not pay anything at all.
- **Expand access to preschool programs for 3- and 4-year olds**, by providing funding to states to establish and expand a mixed-delivery system of high-quality preschool programs.
- **Improve the quality and supply of child care for all children**, including by:
 - Supporting child care for children who are dual-language learners, children who are experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care,
 - Creating more inclusive, high-quality child care options for children, infants and toddlers with disabilities, and increasing funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,
 - Increasing child care options for children who receive care during non-traditional hours,
 - Providing grants to cover start-up and licensing costs to help establish new providers.
- **Increase wages for child care workers**, by ensuring that all child care workers are paid at least a living wage and earn parity with elementary school teachers with similar credentials and experience.
- **Better support Head Start programs**, by providing the funding necessary to offer full-day, full-year programming.

#####