Floor Remarks on Back to Work Child Care Grants Act

Senator X

Date XX

(3.5 minutes)

Thank you, M. President.

Even before the COVID-19 Pandemic, our country has long faced a child care crisis which has left too many families struggling to afford safe, quality child care.

But now, at a time when

* millions of people have lost their jobs,
* parents and families are struggling to make ends meet,
* and our education system has been completely upended,

Half of the country’s child care providers have been forced to close their doors.

And for the child care providers who have stayed open during the pandemic, implementing the health and safety measures necessary to keep children and staff safe has come at an immense cost:

Providers have had to

* Purchase protective equipment for workers,
* Modify classrooms and materials to allow for better cleaning,
* And increase sanitation efforts…

…All while significantly reducing capacity to allow for social distancing.

I have heard from child care providers across the country who have all said the same thing: without significant help, their businesses will not survive this pandemic.

I have heard from educators who are afraid they won’t be able to safely return to classrooms in the fall,

And I have heard from parents who are stressed and scared because their child care provider has closed and they aren’t sure if they can go back to work.

This crisis is only going to get worse. If the Federal government fails to act, we risk losing 4.5 million child care slots nationwide.

Not only will this mean that frontline workers who are currently relying on access to child care in order to keep our communities healthy, safe, and fed will be unable to stay on the job,

But it will also mean that families across the country won’t have child care providers to return to when our economy opens back up.

And we know, that this crisis will hit families of color and working families – who are already struggling to find affordable child care – the hardest.

We need bold solutions that rise to the severity of the child care crisis we are facing, but the proposal my Republican colleagues have put forward is completely inadequate, and nothing more than a political stunt.

Their proposal doesn’t even come close to

* providing the resources necessary to actually solve this crisis,
* stabilizing the child care sector for more than a month,
* Or address the disproportionate effect this crisis is having on low income families and communities of color.

This proposal says: “we don’t care…you’re on your own.”

That is unacceptable.

We owe it to every family, child, and child care provider across the country to take bold, meaningful action that will actually solve this crisis.

It is long past time for Congress to pass the Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act: a serious solution that will

* Keep educators, child care providers, children, and families safe,
* Allow child care providers to stay open throughout this pandemic,
* Protect millions of education and child care jobs,
* Provide tuition relief to working families,
* And ensure equitable distribution of resources to the communities who need them most.

Child care is essential to our recovery from this pandemic, and children and families across the country are counting on us. Now is not the time for political stunts, now is the time for serious, bold solutions.



United States Senate

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Month XX, 2020

**Contact:**

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**Senator X Emphasizes Need for Child Care Relief Funding, Criticizes Republican Proposal as “Completely Inadequate”**

In remarks on the Senate floor, Senator X criticized Republicans’ child care relief package which would only stabilize the child care sector for a month and a half, and called for support of the Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act (CCCERA)

Democrats’ $430 Billion proposal would save millions of child care slots, keep workers and children safe, and ensure child care providers, K-12 schools, colleges, and universities are able to continue providing quality services during the pandemic.

Senator X: “We need bold solutions that rise the severity of the child care crisis we are facing, but the proposal my Republican colleagues have put forward is completely inadequate, and nothing more than a political stunt.”

Without immediate and serious relief the country could lose [4.5 million](https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/news/2020/04/24/483817/coronavirus-pandemic-lead-permanent-loss-nearly-4-5-million-child-care-slots/) child care slots.

**\*\*\*WATCH SENATOR X’S FULL REMARKS HERE\*\*\***

**(Washington, D.C.)** – In remarks on the Senate floor today, U.S. Senator X, called for support of the [Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act](https://www.help.senate.gov/ranking/newsroom/press/senators-murray-schumer-democrats-introduce-430-billion-coronavirus-relief-bill-to-address-national-child-care-and-education-crises-as-democrats-urge-republicans-to-act-on-bold-covid-19-relief-) (CCCERA) and criticized the Republicans’ $15 billion child care relief proposal for failing to adequately address the severity of the child care crisis facing the country. The CCCERA would provide $430 billion to address the national child care and education crises during this pandemic, including $50 billion for a Child Care Stabilization Fund.

**“I have heard from child care providers across the country who have all said the same thing: without significant help, their businesses will not survive this pandemic,”** Senator X said.

**“We need bold solutions that rise to the severity of the crisis we are facing, but the proposal Republican colleagues have put forward is completely inadequate and nothing more than a political stunt.”** continued Senator X. **“That is unacceptable.”**

In Senator X’s remarks she called out Senate Republican’s proposal for failing to provide nearly enough funding to support child care providers. According to [recent analysis](https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/28/republicans-15-billion-bailout-of-child-care-industry-falls-short.html), the $15 billion proposal would stabilize the child care sector for only a month and a half. Senator X also criticized the proposal for failing to address existing inequities that make it harder for low income families and communities of color to access child care and which mean child care closures [are concentrated](https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2020/06/22/486433/coronavirus-will-make-child-care-deserts-worse-exacerbate-inequality/) in low- or middle-income neighborhoods.

Senator X has long been a champion for child care and education. She first introduced [the Child Care for Working Families Act](https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2017/9/sen-murray-introduces-bold-comprehensive-child-care-and-early-learning-bill-to-bring-down-costs-of-child-care-in-washington-state-and-across-the-country) in 2017, and has called for child care and education relief since the beginning of the pandemic. In May, Senator X introduced the [Child Care is Essential Act](https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/newsreleases?ID=6CA6719F-5CF4-46F8-B3DC-05630F7C0AF1https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/mobile/newsreleases?ID=6CA6719F-5CF4-46F8-B3DC-05630F7C0AF1) which established a $50 billion child care stabilization fund and was later incorporated into the CCCERA.

**For more information on the Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act (CCCERA) see** [**HERE**](https://www.help.senate.gov/ranking/newsroom/press/senators-murray-schumer-democrats-introduce-430-billion-coronavirus-relief-bill-to-address-national-child-care-and-education-crises-as-democrats-urge-republicans-to-act-on-bold-covid-19-relief-)**.**

**For Senator X’s full remarks see below.**

**###**

**Tweets from Senator X:**

Chain with link to floor speech:

1. The GOP child care bill is nothing more than a political stunt and doesn’t come close to solving the crisis we are facing. Their bill tells working families and child care providers “you are on your own.” That is unacceptable.
2. Democrats have a bill that will support working parents, keep child care providers open, & ensure children & staff stay safe. Now is the time for bold solutions – not political stunts.

Individual tweets:

1. We owe it to working families across the country to invest in serious solutions to solve the child care crisis we are facing. If we want our economy to get back on track, we must ensure families have access to safe & affordable child care.
2. Working families and child care providers can’t wait. Congress needs to pass a bold solution that matches the severity of the child care crisis we are facing.

*[Include graphic with pull quote or video of Senator X saying: “Child care is essential to our recovery from this pandemic, and children and families across the country are counting on us. Now is the time for serious, bold solutions.]*

**Instagram:**

I’ve heard from child care providers across the country who all say the same thing: without support, their businesses won’t survive the pandemic. Working parents and families are counting on us to ensure child care providers can stay open, safe, and accessible right now. Child care is essential to our economy, and if we want it to get back on track, we need bold actions to address the crisis we are facing.

Unfortunately, the Republicans’ proposal does nothing to actually solve the problem. It fails to provide support to child care providers for longer than a month and a half, and does not address how this crisis has been especially hard for communities of color and low-income families who were already struggling to access child care.

Congress must pass the Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act, which would stabilize our child care system throughout the pandemic, ensure child care providers can remain open while keeping children and workers safe, and provide tuition relief for working parents.

We owe it to children and families across the country to take this crisis seriously, and pass effective solutions that acknowledge the importance of this issue.

[Graphic with pull quote from floor remarks – *“We need bold solutions that rise to the severity of the child care crisis we are facing, but the proposal my Republican colleagues have put forward is completely inadequate, and nothing more than a political stunt.”]*