



September 24, 2008

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

For many years, providers of child care and early learning programs have worked to shape the policy landscape in their communities, states, and at the federal level. USA for Child Care and the Early Care and Education Consortium have worked independently and in concert over the years, seeking to, in the words of USA for Child Care's mission,

***Bring the voice of direct service providers to national and state child care policy dialogue in order to ensure that quality services are accessible to low and moderate-income families.***

That mission, to give voice to the wisdom and expertise of those whose job it is to design, develop, and implement direct service programs for America's young children, is more vital than ever as our nation confronts challenges in a global economy, our families face unparalleled stress and strain, and our leaders demand greater accountability for public investments in early childhood.

In this context, we announce that effective November 6, 2008, USA-Child Care is joining forces with the Early Care and Education Consortium, and will be contributing its resources, energies, and commitment to ECEC's state and federal advocacy work. Newly strengthened, ECEC will continue, through its state and national advocacy work, to:

- Advocate for a strong economic base and infrastructure for effective child care programs that serve all Americans, including low- and moderate-income families
- Facilitate the development of state-wide, regional, and national child care provider networks
- Educate providers regarding national and state policy directions and trends
- Support the development of child care leadership

We are confident this arrangement is the best and most effective vehicle to continue the work of organizing, informing, and focusing the provider message. We encourage all providers to visit the ECEC website and join its advocacy network at [www.ececonsortium.org](http://www.ececonsortium.org).

We look forward to working with you and other leaders in our field to support sound investments in child care and early learning. Please check the Early Care and Education Consortium's website for future information.

Bill Hager  
On behalf of the Board of Directors  
USA for Child Care

Eric Karolak  
On behalf of the Board of Directors  
Early Care and Education Consortium