

Early Care and Education Consortium Newsletter



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"The biggest worry that parents have on the job is what's happening to their children at home. The biggest obstruction to their doing their job well is the worry and the constant concern about where their children are and how they're being cared for." - Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA) when speaking about the need for better access to high-quality early childhood programs.

Issue 7

May 1, 2008

Greetings!

The Early Care and Education Consortium is a voice for providers. Tell your friends and colleagues they can receive this newsletter too! Go to our website: www.ececonsortium.org.

Today, May 1, is "Worthy Wage Day," a day to honor the individuals who care for and help educate our young children and raise awareness and advocate for more public resources for early childhood educators. This month's newsletter includes an update on federal action on child care, state and local developments for child care, and new resources and events.

Federal Action for Child Care: Special Orders in the House and Senate for Week of the Young Child

On April 13, in recognition of the Week of the Young Child (April 13-19, 2008), four senators and 14 representatives went on record for child care and Head Start. Members in both chambers addressed the need for increased funding for such early care and education programs as the Head Start and the Child Care & Development Block Grant in order to serve all eligible children, the lack of high quality programs, the struggles working parents face when trying to find affordable child care, and the need to reach children, especially at-risk children, at a young age. Members of Congress who spoke include:

Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT)
Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA)
Senator Harry Reid (D-NV)
Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

Quick Links

[Pennsylvania Early Childhood Action Day](#)

[Governor Kaine Announces Office of Early Childhood Development](#)

[School Readiness Initiative, National League of Cities](#)

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Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA)
Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA)
Rep. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY)
Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI)
Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT)
Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)
Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA)
Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO)
Rep. Nancy Boyda (D-KS)
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)
Rep. Joe Sestak (D-PA)

Please join ECEC in thanking these members. Don't see your representative on this list? Watch for opportunities from ECEC and partners to inform your Senators and Representatives about the need for high-quality early childhood education.

Click here to see a full transcript:

<http://www.naeyc.org/about/woyc/pdf/2008FloorStatements.pdf>

Federal Funding Update

Early care and education advocates have been working to keep alive the proposed \$406 million increase in discretionary funding for the Child Care & Development Block Grant in the Senate Budget Resolution. We are still awaiting the leadership in both the House and Senate to decide on how they plan to proceed with the appropriations process as well as the legislative schedule for the rest of the year. For more details on this year's funding process, go to www.ececonsortium.org/federal.php

State and Local Developments for Child Care

Pennsylvania Early Childhood Action Day- May 13, 2008

Are you in Pennsylvania or do you know child care providers who are? May 13th is the annual Early Childhood Action Day in Harrisburg. Each year, child care center directors, teachers, program staff, managers, and others to meet with state legislators to support high quality early education.

This year's Early Childhood Action Day is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program in

Pennsylvania as well as the difference made in the life of a child who has had a well-qualified early childhood teacher, and the difference advocates can make to the system for high quality early childhood education.

Interested in participating in Early Childhood Action Day? Contact Mary Beth Salomone at msalomone@ececonsortium.org for more information.

New Office of Early Childhood Development in Virginia

On April 3, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine announced the creation of a state Office of Early Childhood Development and the appointment of Kathy Glazer, his education adviser, as head of the office.

The new office will work to expand access to and coordinate Virginia's system of high-quality early childhood development programs, providing a continuum of services and education for children and their families. The office will report to the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services.

ECEC worked with Ms. Glazer on VPI efforts over the last two legislative sessions. We congratulate her on her new position and look forward to our continued work together.

School Readiness Initiative Coming to Six US Cities

The National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, and the United Way of America's Success by 6 Campaign selected six cities to assist in promoting school readiness among young children. Under the Promoting School Readiness Initiative, Atlanta, Denver, Des Moines, Nashville, Providence, and San Antonio will receive technical assistance on individual city plans aimed at preparing children for school through early education. This includes helping child care providers prepare children for the transition to kindergarten.

For more information on the Initiative, visit <http://www.nlc.org/iyef>.

New Resources and Events

Recommended Reading:

ECEC and the Early Childhood Workforce

The Early Care and Education Consortium, in conjunction with the Bright Horizons Family Solutions, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the Pennsylvania Child Care Association, presented a session at NACCRRA's Annual Policy Symposium on April 2, 2008. The session, "Perspectives on Meeting the Early Childhood Workforce Challenge," addressed the views of child care providers, system approaches, developments on the state level, and the changing federal policy context concerning the early childhood workforce. View the presentation [here](#).

Events:

Workforce Issues Subject of National Call

ECEC and the National Women's Law Center will co-host the second in a series of conference calls on state-funded preK in child care centers. Join us on May 22, 2008 at 2PM EST for a discussion of workforce issues. To register, visit <http://action.nwlc.org/worforcecall>

Conferences:

[Look for ECEC at the 2008 National Smart Start Conference!](#)

May 6-9, 2008 in Greensboro, NC

The Early Care and Education Consortium will be participating in the panel discussion "Issues, Challenges and Strategies Involved in Providing Quality Prekindergarten and Strengthening Mixed Delivery Systems" on Wednesday, May 7.

[NAEYC's National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development](#)

June 8-11, 2008

Questions? Concerns?

Contact us with your or feedback or suggestions.

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