

Early Childhood Education Providers Issue Joint Statement in Support of Sensible Gun Laws

The Early Care and Education Consortium once again urges policymakers across the country to come together and pass stronger gun laws to prevent future tragedies

March 30, 2023—We are deeply saddened about the children and staff whose innocent lives were taken in Monday’s school shooting in Nashville. We mourn alongside their families, their community, and our nation. Sadly, this most recent tragedy is one of many examples of gun violence in our communities and in our schools. We cannot continue down this path. This must stop.

As providers who are entrusted with the care and education of young children every day, we prioritize first and foremost the health and safety of our children and educators. While each of us takes strong measures to ensure the safety of the children in our care, we strongly believe there is more to be done to prevent these types of violent acts in our communities.

The Early Care and Education Consortium (ECEC), which includes many of the nation’s largest providers of early childhood education and care, stands with educators, parents, our communities and partners and calls upon Congress and state legislatures to pass more sensible gun laws. We fully support legislative efforts that offer proven approaches to protect children from gun-related violence.

Now, more than ever, the nation needs to come together to address gun violence so children across the country have access to safe and nurturing learning environments, and educators have safe and secure places of work. We cannot wait for another tragedy to strike. The time to act is now.

Signed,

Henry Wilde, CEO, Acelero Learning and Shine Early Learning

Jeffrey Wahl, CEO, Big Blue Marble Academy

Stephen Kramer, CEO, Bright Horizons

Mary Ann Curran, CEO, Busy Bees North America

Leigh-Ellen Louie, CEO, Cadence Education

David Evans, CEO, Childcare Network

Ricardo Campo, CEO, Endeavor Schools



Scott Thompson, CEO, The Gardner School

Dennis Maple, Chairman and CEO, The Goddard School

Dana Vela, President and CEO, Kama'aina Kids

Hal Kaplan, Executive Chairman, Kaplan Early Learning Company

Joshua Frick, President, Kiddie Academy Educational Child Care

Tom Wyatt, Chairman and CEO, KinderCare Learning Companies

Mark Bierley, CEO, Learning Care Group

Richard Weissman, CEO and Chairman, The Learning Experience

Gigi Schweikert, CEO, Lightbridge Academy

David Post, CEO, Little Sprouts

Kristen Waterfield, Founder and CEO, The Malvern School

Gerry Pastor and Jane Porterfield, Founders and Co-CEOs, The Nest Schools

Chad Dunkley, CEO, New Horizon Academy

Jeffrey Altschuler, Founder and CEO, Old School Academies

George Fogel, CEO, Premier Early Childhood Education Partners

Jo Kirchner, CEO, Primrose Schools

Shahdokht Mudakavi, CEO and Founder, Safari Kid

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