



Summary of the *Early Childhood Workforce Advancement Act*

Led by Senator Merkley (D-OR) and Representatives McBath (D-GA), Lawler (R-NY), Bonamici (D-OR), Thompson (R-PA), John Mannion (D-NY), and Kiggans (R-VA)

Background

Child care is essential for the success of working families, but all too often very hard to find and too expensive for the average American. Without child care, families cannot actively participate in our economy. For example, data shows that more than two million American parents have had to make changes in their jobs due to problems accessing child care.

In order to close this gap, our schools must prepare more people to become skilled child care workers. Congress has the responsibility to strengthen our child care infrastructure and invest in the next generation of providers so that all families can thrive.

The *Early Childhood Workforce Advancement Act* will address the child care workforce shortage by investing in career and technical education (CTE) programs and incentivizing more students to enter the early childhood workforce upon graduation.

The *Early Childhood Workforce Advancement Act* does the following:

- Awards grants to eligible partnerships such as institutions of higher education, child care providers, or relevant workforce training programs with schools;
- Establishes, expands, or supports career and technical education and career pathway programs of study in early childhood education.

Endorsing Organizations: Advance CTE, American Federation of Teachers, Association of Career and Technical Education, Bipartisan Policy Center, Council for Professional Recognition, Center for Law and Social Policy, Child Care Aware, Children’s Defense Fund, Early Care and Education Consortium, First Five Years Fund, First Focus Campaign for Children, National Education Association, National Head Start Association, National Partnership for Women and Families, National Women’s Law Center Action Fund, Save the Children, and Zero to Three.

