



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

September 22, 2017

Chair Renee S. Herzfeld
2017 Steering Committee
Early Care and Education Planning Council
1401 Lakeside Drive
Unit 1116
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chair Herzfeld,

Thank you for writing to express your support for early childhood care and education. It is great to hear from you. I appreciate your perspective on this issue, and I welcome the opportunity to respond.

Please know that I share your support for ensuring that all children have access to high-quality care and early education. On September 7, 2017, I joined my colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee in approving the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill (S. 1771). The Senate's bill rejects the President's draconian budget proposal for FY 2018 and includes:

- \$2.86 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant;
- \$9.25 billion for Head Start;
- \$1.19 billion for 21st Century Community Learning Centers;
- \$15.1 million for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program;
- and
- \$368 million for IDEA Preschool Grants.

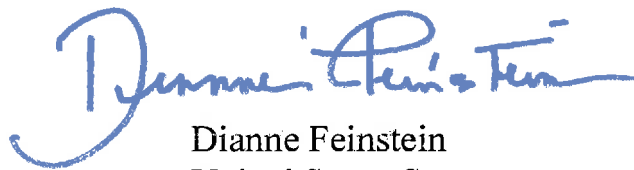
This bill must now be reconciled with its counterpart in the House of Representatives before it can be signed into law by the President.

I appreciate hearing of your support for early childhood care and education, especially given your perspective as Chair of the Alameda County Early Care and

Education Planning Council 2017 Steering Committee. I will keep your letter in mind as the FY 2018 appropriations process continues.

Once again, thank you for writing. Should you have any other questions or comments, please feel free to contact Brent Palmer in my Washington office at (202) 224-2287.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dianne" being significantly larger and more prominent than the last name "Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:bp