

National Association for the Education of Young Children

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July 20, 2009

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, Committee on Education & Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation's leading voice for early childhood education professionals working with and on behalf of children birth to age 8, supports the Early Learning Challenge Fund in H.R. 3221 as introduced.

We are pleased that the goal of the legislation is to increase the number of disadvantaged children in high quality programs at each age from birth to kindergarten. The legislation reflects NAEYC's principles for an integrated system of high quality early childhood education: program standards that cross all settings with a pathway of higher quality, financial incentives and supports to providers to meet and sustain higher levels of quality, professional development and credentials tied to better compensation, coordination among state planning bodies and agencies that support young children and families, and referrals to health and other services as needed by children and families.

We look forward to working with you to advance this legislation and to work to secure increased investments in child care, Early Head Start, Head Start, and early childhood special education that are the foundations for meeting the goal of the Challenge Fund to provide high quality early childhood programs that promote healthy development and learning for our nation's young children.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Ginsberg, Ph.D
Executive Director