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**Subject:** Testimony

Hello,

Here are my thoughts on the child care industry and why supporting our efforts is so important.

Gaps in the childcare industry have always been filled by the enthusiasm and dedication of the caregivers who notice them. Whether it's creative fundraising to develop enrichment activities or extra research to meet the unique needs of a given child these caregivers aren't afraid to put in the work.

This has been even more apparent during the pandemic as our already strained systems were expected to bear an even greater burden. As businesses shuttered, schools closed and families faced enormous uncertainty, the people who engage in the vital work of caring for children continued to show up every day at great personal risk.

Even now as we return to a semblance of normalcy there has been no break for caregivers and I don't think we're asking for one. Instead we are asking for support in our continued efforts to ensure a safe, healthy environment for children's growth. Directing pandemic relief funding to child care workers is a good step in acknowledging the vital role they have played and will continue to play in our recovery.

Thank you

Adriana Lopez