

# Home Grown Endorses the Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act

The early childhood workforce in family child care, Early Head Start, Head Start, and child care centers is working tirelessly to ensure children receive healthy, adequate food that supports their growth and learning. Yet studies show that [one out of three child care providers regularly worry about having enough to eat at the end of the month](#). The goal of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is to partially subsidize food costs in child care settings. For child care providers serving cash-strapped families, CACFP reimbursement is an essential part of a budget that allows their child care program to stay open and available.

This important new legislation would:

- Provide a 10 cent increase for eligible meals and snacks for all CACFP-participating family child care programs, Head Start and child care centers
- Pay all family child care providers the same rate per meal and snack, eliminating tiered payment disparities and burdensome reporting
- Permit family child care providers to submit for reimbursement for meals served to their own children if they are enrolled in the program.

*“Groceries simply cost so much more than the current partial reimbursement, and families and child care providers are struggling to ensure that children are not hungry while in care. The two-tier payment system has been deeply damaging to the field, and contributed to a historic reduction in the number of family child care homes participating in CACFP. Eliminating payment disparities and increasing the subsidy is essential to keeping family child care homes open and addressing the child care crisis. We are thrilled to have Representative Bonamici and Representative Landsman championing this important change.”* – **Alexandra Patterson, Director of policy and strategy for Home Grown.**

*“Home-based child care providers are proud of the healthy meals they serve, and too often have to pay too much out of pocket to make this possible. For many children, the child care or Head Start program they attend is their primary source of food, and CACFP is a lifeline for them. Home Grown is grateful to Congressman Landsman and Congresswoman Bonamici for responding to providers’ request that their own children be able to participate in CACFP if they are cared for in their parent’s program. This just makes good sense.”* – **Natalie Renew, Executive Director of Home Grown.**

**Home Grown is proud to endorse the Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act. We look forward to working with Members of Congress to help accomplish our shared goal of keeping our kids fed.**