



For Immediate Release

November 15, 2022

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Home Grown Endorses the Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act Introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Bob Casey (PA)

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 Senate 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.
- Make the CACFP payment rate-setting more fair by calculating family child care payments the same way child care center payments are calculated, as "food away from home"

“The current partial reimbursement has not kept up with the cost of food. Families and child care providers alike struggle to ensure that children are adequately fed while in care. The system of paying some home-based child care providers less than others has been deeply damaging to the field, and contributed to a historic reduction in the number of family child care homes participating in CACFP. If we want to address the child care crisis, eliminating two-tiered payments and increasing the payment rate would help. Home Grown thanks Senator Casey for championing this important change.” Natalie Renew, Executive Director of Home Grown.

“Home-based child care providers work hard to make and serve healthy meals, and too often short-change their own take home pay in order to make this possible. Child care is the primary source of food for many children, and CACFP is a lifeline for them. Home Grown is grateful to Senator Casey 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.” Alexandra Patterson, Director of Policy and Strategy for Home Grown.

Home Grown is proud to endorse the Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act in both the U.S. House and now the U.S. Senate. We look forward to working with Members of Congress to help accomplish our shared goal of keeping our kids fed.

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