

Senator Jason Lewis, Chair  
Joint Committee on Education  
24 Beacon Street, Room 511-B  
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Alice Peisch, Chair  
Joint Committee on Education  
24 Beacon Street, Room 473G  
Boston, MA 02133

July 2, 2019

**RE: An Act Relative to Affordable and Accessible High Quality Early Education and Care (H.470 and S.288)**

Dear Chairs Lewis and Peisch, Vice Chairs Lovely and Tucker, and Members of the Joint Committee on Education:

We, the undersigned organizations, recognize that in order to meet the needs of the 21st-century workforce and strengthen our economy in a way that also reduces racial, gender, and income inequality in our state, **Massachusetts families need affordable, accessible, high-quality early education and child care.**

While Massachusetts is a nationwide leader on quality in early education and care, the current system is unaffordable and/or inaccessible for many families.

**We support, and are working together to develop the details of, a plan that would give Massachusetts families access to affordable, high-quality early education and child care delivered through programs at centers, homes and public schools.**

Some ideas we are considering include the following:

- Extended hours that go beyond the traditional work day;
- A sliding-fee scale where families below a certain percentage of the poverty line would be able to access child care options without paying anything, while families with higher incomes would pay a progressive sliding-scale tuition fee based on their income, with no family paying more than a set percent of their income; and
- Ensuring that early educators are fairly compensated and properly trained to reduce turnover, secure a high-quality workforce, and attain an adequate supply of child care to meet the need.

**We are a diverse set of groups including community, faith-based, labor, and business organizations, as well as early educators, parents, networks, and direct service organizations. We are working together to develop the details of a plan we can all support. In the meantime, we have filed placeholder legislation, H.470 (Representative Gordon) and S.288 (Senator Friedman), titled “An Act Relative to Affordable and Accessible High Quality Early Education and Care.”**

We look forward to working with members of the Committee as we develop the details of this plan.

Sincerely,

Jesse Mermell, President  
**Alliance for Business Leadership**

Peter Doliber, Executive Director  
**Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs**

**Boston Democratic Socialists of America**

Ana Poblacion, Research Scientist  
**Children's HealthWatch**

Deb Fastino, Executive Director  
**Coalition for Social Justice**

Clare Higgins, Executive Director  
**Community Action Pioneer Valley**

Kim Davenport, Managing Director, Birth to 3rd Grade Alignment  
**Edward Street Child Services**

Chelsea Sedani, Director of Advocacy  
**EMPath**

Naomi Meyer, Senior Attorney  
**Greater Boston Legal Services**

Kate Barrand, President & CEO  
**Horizons for Homeless Children**

Cindy Rowe, Executive Director  
**Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action**

Rachael Collins  
**Juliet Workers**

Sasha Goodfriend, President  
**Mass NOW**

William Eddy, Executive Director  
**Massachusetts Association of Early Education & Care (MADCA)**

JD Chesloff, Executive Director  
**Massachusetts Business Roundtable**

Jeff McLynch, Director  
**Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education**

Jill Ashton, Executive Director  
**Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women**

Lew Finfer, Co-Director  
**Massachusetts Communities Action Network**

Michelle Haimowitz, Executive Director  
**Massachusetts Head Start Association**

Gillian Mason, Co-Director  
**Massachusetts Jobs with Justice**

Georgia Katsoulomitis, Executive Director  
**Massachusetts Law Reform Institute**

Beth Huang, Director  
**Massachusetts Voter Table**

Tina Sherman, Campaign Director  
**MomsRising**

Rebecca Hart Holder, Executive Director  
**NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts**

Lauren Birchfield Kennedy, Co-Founder  
**Neighborhood Villages**

Denise Schultz, Director  
**New England Women's Policy Initiative**

Maria Rosario, Executive Director  
**NorthStar Learning Centers**

Abhidnya Kurve, Coordinator  
**On Solid Ground Coalition**

Imari Paris Jeffries, Executive Director  
**Parenting Journey**

Kim Kargman, Organizing Manager  
**Planned Parenthood League of  
Massachusetts**

John Lippitt, Leadership Team Member  
**Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts**

Joe DiMauro, Statewide Campaign  
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**Progressive Massachusetts**

Chris Condon, Political Director  
**SEIU Local 509**

Amy O'Leary, Early Education for All  
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**Strategies for Children**

Kathy Melish, President  
**United Auto Workers Local 159**

Anais N. Surkin, President  
**United Auto Workers Local 2322**

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**United Auto Workers Region 9A**

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Martha Assefa, Manager  
**Worcester Food Policy Council**

Beth Chandler, President & CEO  
**YW Boston**

Gail Fortes, Executive Director  
**YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts**