



...ensuring affordable, accessible, high quality child care for all young children and families.

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Child Care Services Association President Testifies at Congressional Briefing

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – Sue Russell, president of Child Care Services Association (CCSA), a local nonprofit agency, will present information about the need to support the child care workforce's access to resources while in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday. The forum entitled, "Supporting the Early Education Workforce: Improving Caregiver Quality," is sponsored by Senator Chris Dodd (Conn.) and Senator Olympia Snowe (Maine), and is hosted by the Service Employees International Union's® Kids First program.

Congressional staff members from Capitol Hill will attend the forum to learn about ways Congress can take action to support the needs of the early childhood workforce. Various experts in early care and education will present strategies for retaining and developing the child care workforce, which improves options for families.

Russell will focus her testimony on the lessons learned from CCSA's T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project, a program that gives scholarships to child care workers to complete course work in early childhood education, and the Child Care WAGE\$® Project, a compensation initiatives program.

"The early childhood workforce is the key to helping children come to school well prepared and to helping families be able to work," said Russell. "Our nation must begin to recognize the critical needs of this workforce to have the education it needs and the compensation it deserves."

In 1990, CCSA created the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood® Project to address the issues of under-education, poor compensation and high turnover within the early childhood workforce. At the end of 2004, twenty-one states, in addition to North Carolina, were licensed by CCSA to develop and implement T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Projects. Together, the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGE\$® Projects work to increase the education, compensation and retention of child care providers in nearly half of the United States.

About Child Care Services Association:

Child Care Services Association (CCSA) is a nationally recognized nonprofit ensuring affordable, accessible, high quality child care for all families. CCSA provides free referral services to families seeking child care, technical assistance to child care businesses, and educational scholarships and salary supplements to child care professionals through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGE\$® Projects. Child Care Services Association licenses its programs to states across the country and provides consultation and guidance to others seeking to solve child care concerns. Child Care Services Association is headquartered in the Triangle region of North Carolina. To learn more visit www.childcareservices.org.

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