

Support for the Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act in Massachusetts

The Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act has also been endorsed by numerous organizations, elected officials, and policymakers across Massachusetts, including MA State Senator Jason Lewis, Fifth Middlesex District and Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education; MA State Representative Alice H. Peisch, 14th Norfolk District and House Chair of the Joint Committee on Education; MA State Senator Jamie Eldridge, Middlesex and Worcester District; MA State Senator Eric P. Lesser, First Hampden and Hampshire District; MA State Representative Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex District; MA State Representative Sarah K. Peake, Fourth Barnstable District; MA State Representative Lindsay N. Sabadosa, First Hampshire District; MA State Representative Jon Santiago, 9th Suffolk District; Thomas W. Bernard, Mayor of North Adams, MA; Paul Heroux, Mayor of Attleboro, MA; Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor of Easthampton, MA; Marc McGovern, Mayor of Cambridge, MA; David Narkewicz, Mayor of Northampton, MA; Joseph Petty, Mayor of Worcester, MA; Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston, MA; Boston City Council President Andrea Campbell; Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards; Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu; Winthrop, MA Town Manager Austin Faison; Anne Teschner, Executive Director of The Care Center, Holyoke, MA; Necy Lopes, President of the Board of Directors, Cape Verdean Association of Brockton, MA; and Community Action Programs Inter-City Inc. of Chelsea, MA. Read the statements of support:

“In order to secure true opportunity and equity for every child, we must make substantial investments in early education and childcare. I enthusiastically support Senator Warren’s proposal because it would achieve the goal of providing universal access to affordable, high-quality child care and early education for all families in Massachusetts and across our nation.” -- **State Senator Jason Lewis, Fifth Middlesex District and Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education**

“Senator Warren’s Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act is a welcome proposal to expand access to high quality, affordable early education for children across the country. In my time as House Chair of the Education Committee in the Massachusetts Legislature, I have viewed quality early education as the most effective way to ensure all children start their K-12 education ready to learn. Legislation like Senator Warren’s bill is an important first step in creating a level playing field for all students so they may succeed in school and beyond.” -- **State Representative Alice H. Peisch, 14th Norfolk District and House Chair of the Joint Committee on Education**

“Childcare and pre-school programs help working families by providing children with the care and early education they need to develop critical social and learning skills that have a major impact on them as they grow up, as well as help identify areas where children may be falling behind. Universal child care also provides the welcome security for working parents that their child is in a safe and secure environment, and that is affordable, reducing a potential financial burden that too many American families face today, including in Massachusetts. I applaud Senator Warren for introducing this bill to make affordable child care and early education a reality for all American families.” -- **State Senator Jamie Eldridge, Middlesex and Worcester District**

“I’m grateful to Senator Warren for this bold and desperately needed proposal. We know high-quality pre-kindergarten education opens the door to a lifetime of benefits. Unfortunately, the current system is too expensive and leaves too many families out altogether, holding us back as a Commonwealth. Senator Warren’s proposal will open doors for countless numbers of my constituents and lift our communities in the process.” -- **State Senator Eric P. Lesser, First Hampden and Hampshire District**

“The Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act is the latest example of Senator Warren’s bold vision for supporting our communities’ families. While early education is instrumental for our children’s future, access to quality, affordable child care continues to be out of reach for far too many of our nation’s families. Senator Warren’s proposal will ensure that every child born in our great country has the same opportunities to thrive.” -- **State Representative Jack Patrick Lewis, 7th Middlesex District**

“I applaud Senator Warren for introducing the Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act. Study after study has proven that early education provides positive, long-term benefits to children's social and educational wellbeing, and it is a highly effective tool to close the achievement gap. This bill will benefit families in my district, across the Commonwealth, and across the U.S. We all owe the Senator a debt of gratitude for her attention and dedication to this issue.” -- **State Representative Sarah K. Peake, Fourth Barnstable District**

“Senator Warren’s plan to give all children equal access to education and all families the same opportunities is one that I believe in and one that would work for my district. In a world where economic disparity is only worsening, it is time to reverse course. In Massachusetts, our state constitution protects the right to education, but we must go further, acknowledge the research, and include early childhood care and education in that formula.” -- **State Representative Lindsay N. Sabadosa, First Hampshire District.** [Read the full statement here.](#)

“Ensuring access [to] childcare helps everyone open the doors to economic competitiveness, learning readiness, and equality of opportunity. Senator Warren’s Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act will help communities, families, and individuals all over our nation support economic growth and reduce economic disparities by streamlining access to child care programs, ensuring those programs are high quality and affordable, and by building on existing programs such as the recently announced preschool expansion initiative currently underway in North Adams.” -- **Thomas W. Bernard, Mayor of North Adams**

“In my capacity as Mayor of Easthampton, I write today in strong support of [Senator Warren’s] Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act. Regardless of income or family structure, all children fare better when exposed to high – interest lessons and activities. Due to the fundamental economic challenge of scarcity, early education programming is inconsistent across Western Massachusetts. Current child care programs are challenged to provide curriculum and professional development informed by best practice and research. Childcare options are based on a child’s zip code and resulting funding stream for daycare dictate what the child’s day looks like regardless of need. Child care access should be universal to address all students and their family’s needs consistently.” -- **Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor of Easthampton.** [Read the full letter here.](#)

“As a father, social worker for at-risk youth, and Mayor, the needs of children and families are at the forefront of my work. Senator Warren’s proposed Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act would put into practice what we service providers have long believed, that children and families deserve a strong start in life to realize a brighter and more equitable future, a goal I have been working toward every day at the local level. The Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act is yet another example of the focused and progressive policy-setting that we have come to expect from Senator Warren, and would send a clear message to families across America that we are committed to providing for our youth. I look forward to giving the Universal Child Care and Early Learning Act my full support.” -- **Marc McGovern, Mayor of Cambridge**

"Across every corner of Boston and beyond, families are struggling to find affordable, accessible child care. As a mom to two young boys and a City Councilor who has heard the stories of so many parents sacrificing to make it until kids are old enough for free Kindergarten, I know how broken our system is. Our work at the city level won't be enough without federal investment. With this legislation, moms and dads will be able to stay in the workforce, child care professionals will earn dignified pay, and our kids will reap the benefits of earlier support for learning and growth. Senator Warren has been a leader on this issue for a long time, and I'm so proud of all that she has delivered for working families in Massachusetts, fighting for increases in childcare development block grants and investments to lift up our childcare work force, primarily women and women of color. This plan will be transformational for families across America, and it's the best investment we could make in our future." -- **Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu**

"Coalition for Social Justice is pleased to hear that Senator Warren will be prioritizing early education and care for all. It's a vital policy that will support parents, aide in the healthy development of children and help boost our economy." -- **Deb Fastino, Executive Director of the Coalition for Social Justice**

“The Care Center in Holyoke, Massachusetts provides quality secondary and post-secondary education to women involved in the welfare system, women who are managing the challenges poverty presents. One of the supports we provide is onsite quality day care. Stable, safe, affordable child care is essential for the success of these women and their children. Without it these families will be relegated to a life of poverty and unrealized human potential. Universal child care is a critically important tool for our nation’s growth and development. We wholeheartedly endorse Elizabeth Warren’s Universal Child Care Plan.” -- **Anne Teschner, Executive Director, The Care Center, Holyoke**

“We are thrilled by the Senator’s proactiveness[.] This initiative is exactly what is needed to help the hard-working American families; it will assure the leveling of the playing field, guaranteeing an early start for the children in our community.” -- **Necy Lopes, President of the Board of Directors, Cape Verdean Association of Brockton**