



Immediate Release

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Federal Government Must 'Up Its Game' and Invest in a Robust Child Care System – Michigan's Children

(July 8, 2021) – For Michigan families to emerge from the pandemic able to go to work and secure safe and reliable high-quality care for their children, the federal government must step up and significantly invest in our nation's child care system, an essential move in our economic revival, according to [Michigan's Children](http://michiganschildren.org), an independent public policy and advocacy nonprofit working in the best interest of Michigan's children, youth and families.

"Advocacy organizations like Michigan's Children are urgently calling on federal leaders today to up their game and make investing in a robust child care system a priority in this federal budget cycle," said Michigan's Children President & CEO Matt Gillard.

"Raising a family has never been more expensive, and worrisome for Michigan working families making low wages and middle incomes," Gillard added. "Tens of thousands of working Michigan moms have dropped out of the workforce during the pandemic with child care woes a leading factor. We must honor the fact that families are the cornerstone of American life and they need relief."

Gillard praised leaders such as U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and other Members of Congress for recognizing the great financial burdens on struggling parents and going out front today to raise awareness to changes in the federal child care tax credit. Starting July 15, families will be able to earn an advance payment on the federal child care tax credit with the rest to follow when individuals and families file their 2021 income tax return.

Absent a universal child care system that works for families and the country, Gillard said, Michigan must secure economic help through other means, namely stepped up federal investments in child care subsidies for working parents and support for child care providers who were in crisis mode even in pre-pandemic times. "Child care is out of reach for many families and costs, rivaling college costs, are forcing families to make difficult decisions about their place in the workforce," Gillard said. "Infant care, the most expensive in the system, can represent half the earnings of a parent making the minimum wage which represents many parents of color. We must change this dynamic."

The main form of federal support for child care is the Child Care and Development Program. Gillard said the federal government can offer real solutions by investing more federal dollars in the program thereby supporting both working families and child care providers.

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