

September 11, 2017

Dear Ranking Member Murray and Ranking Member Scott,

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) is a membership organization for teachers of English and literacy, PreK through graduate level. We seek to apply the power of language and literacy to actively pursue justice and equity for all students and the educators who serve them. Our members believe a child's chances for success in school and life increase through access to early learning opportunities. We are writing to express our support for the Child Care for Working Families Act (CWFA).

NCTE applauds the bill's focus on literacy. By providing equitable access to learning opportunities, the CWFA creates stronger, and fairer, environments for learning. This is particularly important for children and families most likely to benefit from the child-care block grants. We're especially pleased the legislation includes literacy as a key domain under state early learning standards. This encompasses high-quality early literacy skill development and family literacy services, particularly for those for whom English is a second language.

NCTE commends this legislation for requiring eligible child-care providers to not only deliver accessible, but also provide comprehensive services with literacy at the core for children and their families. NCTE supports the bill's actions to enhance access to high-quality early childhood education for infants and preschoolers. This includes the CWFA's commitment to culturally sustaining pedagogy and properly preparing early childhood educators.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the CWFA. NCTE stands committed to assuring all students have access to affordable and high-quality education services, which advance childhood literacy. For any questions or for additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Emily Kirkpatrick
Executive Director