



For Immediate Release

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For More Information:

Natalie Renew, Executive Director
natalie@homegrownchildcare.org

**Home Grown Endorses the Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act
Introduced in the United States House by Representative Bonamici (D-OR) and Representative
Monilaro (R-NY)**

The early childhood workforce in family child care, Early Head Start, Head Start, and child care centers is working tirelessly to ensure children receive healthy, adequate food that supports their growth and learning. Yet studies show that [one out of three child care providers regularly worry about having enough to eat at the end of the month.](#) The goal of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is to partially subsidize food costs in child care settings. For child care providers serving cash-strapped families, CACFP reimbursement is an essential part of a budget that allows their child care program to stay open and available.

This important, bipartisan legislation would:

- Add another meal service to be reimbursed in CACFP when this 3rd meal is offered 8 hours after the first meal service of the program day
- Change the payment policy so that family child care programs in CACFP are reimbursed based on "food away from home," the way child care centers' rates are calculated
- Call on the Secretary of USDA to review the CACFP Serious Deficiency process
- Establish an Advisory Committee on CACFP paperwork.

"We are so grateful for the leadership of Representative Bonamici and Representative Molinaro as they continue the long history of bipartisan support for this much-needed legislation. We hear from home-based child care providers time and again that the current policy of two meals and one snack simply isn't enough for hungry young children in child care all day. Instead of letting children go hungry, caregivers are providing additional food from their own family's pantry. This is not sustainable nor acceptable. No child care provider should have to feed the children in her care at the expense of meals for her own family," said Natalie Renew, Executive Director.

Home Grown is proud to endorse the Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act in the U.S. House. We look forward to working with Members of Congress to help accomplish our shared goal of keeping our kids fed.

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