

WHAT THE CANDIDATES ARE SAYING ABOUT CHILD CARE

What **President Joe Biden (D)** and **President Donald Trump (R)** have said about child care and early learning while in office:

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP (R)

“I have also overseen historic funding increases for high-quality child care, enabling 17 States to serve more children, many of which have reduced or eliminated their waitlists altogether. And I sent the Congress a plan with a vision to further expand access to high-quality childcare and urge you to act immediately.” — [State of the Union](#), 2020

“My administration is also focused on expanding access to high-quality, affordable childcare. Last year, I was proud to sign into law the largest ever increase in Child Care Development Block Grants to States. The States understand that very well. A lot of Governors come up to me and they thank me for that” — [Remarks at the White House Summit on Child Care and Paid Leave](#), 2019

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN (D)

“Imagine what that could do for America. Imagine a future with affordable child care so millions of families can get the care they need and still go to work and help grow the economy.” — [State of the Union Address](#), 2024

“If you live in a major American city, you can pay more than \$17,000 a year, as all of you know, per child for childcare in order to be able to go to work. And for a lot of families, that’s more than you pay for your rent, your mortgage, or a college education for your children.... We also increased Child care and Development Block Grants, helping more low-income families afford child care.” — [Remarks by Biden on Actions to Help Families Access Care](#), 2023

SENATOR CASEY



Since 2020, he has voted for legislation that helped working families access child care including:

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 which supported more than 225,00 child care providers serving as many as 10 million children, including 6,845 Pennsylvania child care programs, impacting up to 365,000 children.

The CHIPS and Science Act which required employers seeking Commerce Department grants to guarantee affordable, quality child care.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which delivered \$3.5 billion in supplemental funding to the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program, including bringing in \$106,397,624 to support Pennsylvania child care providers.



Senator Casey has supported and led legislation that would reduce the cost of child care for Pennsylvania's working families, including

Early Childhoods Nutrition Improvement Act of 2024, Sponsor

S. 2777: Child Care Stabilization Act, Co-sponsor

S. 2013: Building Child Care for a Better Future Act, Co-sponsor

S. 1867: Expanding Childcare in Rural America Act of 2023, Co-sponsor

S. 1354 : Child Care for Working Families Act, Co-sponsor

S. 4529: Children's Safe Welcome Act of 2022, Co-sponsor

S. 3088: Five Freedoms for America's Children Act, Sponsor

S. 3657: Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Enhancement Act, Sponsor

**\$118
BILLION**

Since 2020, Senator Casey has supported Appropriations bills which included more than \$118 billion in assistance to child care and programs for American families.

SENATOR CASEY



Senator Casey **discussed** the Child Care for Working Families Act, noting the pandemic made it critical to help families deal with the cost of child care and early learning. “In the midst of the economic crisis caused by COVID-19, millions of parents are struggling to put food on the table and cover the cost of child care – working families should not have to worry about prohibitive costs of early learning and care. The Child Care for Working Families Act would ensure that all families have access to the affordable high-quality early care and learning opportunities that help children grow and succeed and enable parents to work. It would support access to universal pre-k, full day head-start and ensure that low and middle income working families do not have to pay more than seven percent of their income on child care. These investments in our early care and education system are critical to our national economic infrastructure and recovery. We have an obligation to support working families and the wellbeing of every child.”



Senator Casey **highlighted** access to early education programs like Head Start, noting that there is “no excuse” for not reaching all eligible children. Citing an estimate that only one out of every six families benefit from programs like Head Start, Senator Casey said: “There’s no excuse for that. When you have a program and you have an eligibility list that’s this long and you’re only serving that many children, that many families, obviously something’s wrong.”



Senator Casey **spotlighted** the prevalence of Pennsylvania families struggling to find reliable and affordable child care and early education. He noted the need for a long-term solution and touted the Child Care for Working Families Act. “Everywhere I go in Pennsylvania, I meet families who are struggling to find reliable child care or affordable preschool and feel like they’re on their own,” said Senator Casey. “While the American Rescue Plan provided thousands of Pennsylvania families with a bridge to help them afford child care during the pandemic, we need a long-term, permanent solution for every working family in the Commonwealth. That’s why I’m going to keep pushing to pass the Child Care for Working Families Act; it’s good for children, for families, and for the economy.”