

# WHAT THE CANDIDATES ARE SAYING ABOUT CHILD CARE

What **Democratic Presidential Nominee Kamala Harris** and **Republican Presidential Nominee Donald Trump** have said about child care and early learning while in office:

## REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE **DONALD TRUMP**

*“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](#)

## DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE **KAMALA HARRIS**

*“This is a critical issue for almost every family in our country — and the issue, of course, being the need for affordable childcare. And, frankly, in too many places in our country, it’s just too expensive.”* — [Remarks by Vice President Harris in Press Call on Affordable Child Care, 2023](#)

*“Unfortunately, childcare, again, remains too expensive for too many families in our nation. In some places, childcare can cost almost \$20,000 per child per year. Low-income families often spend one third — one third of their yearly income on childcare, more than they spend on their rent or mortgage. No family should have to choose between high quality care for their child or to give up their career or put food on the table.”* — [Remarks by Vice President Harris in Press Call on Affordable Child Care, 2023](#)

## SENATOR DEB FISCHER



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

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 \$20,077,074 to [support](#) Nebraska child care providers.

**Since 2020, Senator Fischer has voted against 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](#) 2,270 Nebraska child care programs, impacting up to 103,700 children.

The **CHIPS and Science Act** which [required](#) employers seeking Commerce Department grants to guarantee affordable, quality child care.



**Senator Deb Fischer has supported and led legislation that would reduce the cost of child care for Nebraska's working families, including:**

**S.3899: Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2022, Co-Sponsor**

**S.4049: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021**

**S.2354: Strong Families Act: Sponsor**

**S. 4967 Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2024, Sponsor**

**\$164  
MILLION**

Since 2023, **Senator Fischer has supported Appropriations bills which included more than \$164 million in assistance** to child care and programs for Nebraska families.

## SENATOR FISCHER ON THE NEED TO SUPPORT CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES



In 2023, Senator Fischer discussed child care in a Senate Appropriations hearing, noting that CCDBG “is a bipartisan program with a storied history that should be supported and improved.”



In 2022, Senator Fischer wrote about the importance of child care and the need to increase availability through the CCDBG program. “According to the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, 11 counties in our state do not have any licensed child care providers. This is due to a variety of factors, including staffing shortages and excessive regulations. The lack of available providers means the cost of child care is often prohibitively high for many working families. The Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act, a bipartisan bill that I recently cosponsored, would help to tackle some of these challenges. The bill has a number of important components. First, it would authorize a roughly \$4 billion increase in funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program – a historic federal initiative that helps to lower the cost of child care for working families. In addition to increasing the affordability of child care, the bill would also increase families’ eligibility to utilize the program.”



In 2014, Senator Fischer affirmed support for the CCDBG program, noting the need for safe and reliable child care. “Hard-working mothers and fathers depend on safe, reliable, affordable child care while they work to earn a living, but unfortunately for low-income families, this is not always easy to come by. This legislation reaffirms our commitment to providing access to quality child care programs for parents while they earn a steady paycheck or go back to school. I am pleased the Senate broadly passed this commonsense bill to ensure America’s working families have the flexibility and opportunity to earn a living, knowing their children are in good hands.”