The Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) strongly endorses the Child Care is Infrastructure Act (H.R. 7201), legislation introduced by Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA) to increase the supply of high-quality early care and education (ECE) facilities nationwide.

The physical quality of ECE facilities is a vital component of creating high-quality child care programs, yet ECE providers have long struggled to access the resources and technical support to finance critical facility modifications that improve the environments where children learn and teachers teach. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these challenges as providers face great financial uncertainty due to prolonged closures, smaller class sizes, and increased cleaning costs and other physical modifications necessary to stop the transmission of the virus. Facility renovations that improve health and safety are now more important than ever, but ECE providers urgently need dedicated subsidy resources and technical assistance to navigate these new challenges and safely reopen strong child care programs.

The Child Care is Infrastructure Act takes several important steps to strengthen the child care sector in light of immediate health and safety threats, as well as support the long-term sustainability of high-quality ECE facilities. This includes the creation of:

- **Two national needs assessments** to evaluate 1) the pandemic’s impacts on ECE facilities and 2) the ongoing needs of ECE facilities;
- **Competitive infrastructure grants** for states to support renovations or facility modifications in both center-based and home-based programs. A portion of the funds can be awarded to intermediary organizations, including CDFIs, that have experience financing ECE facilities and can offer providers critical technical assistance support.
- **Education and workforce development investments** that include a student loan repayment program and financial subsidy for teachers seeking additional academic credentials.

In addition, the Child Care is Infrastructure Act would recognize ECE facilities as a critical component of community development by prioritizing ECE facilities in HUD’s Choice Neighborhoods program.

LIIF strongly applauds Representative Clark for her leadership and commitment to investing in the nation’s ECE sector and we look forward to advancing the Child Care is Infrastructure Act alongside our partners.

For questions or comments, please contact:

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