



August 9, 2021

U.S. Senator Michael F. Bennet

U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper

3rd Congressional District Representative Lauren Boebert

**KIDS FIRST: AMERICAN FAMILIES PLAN
PRIORITIZE EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION**

The existing structure of childcare in our country is unsustainable. For many years, the high cost and limited supply of childcare and preschool across the country has created insurmountable challenges for too many families. **To ensure that all kids in Colorado, especially in rural and resort communities like Aspen have a strong foundation for later learning and achievement, we must build a system of early care and education that works.**

We are encouraged by the momentum growing in Washington for a major investment in our children, families, early educators, and our economic future. The administration's proposed American Families Plan would provide a \$225 billion investment to address the childcare needs of families and providers, \$200 billion to expand voluntary preschool access to all 3- and 4-year-olds, and an extension of recent improvements to crucial tax credits, including the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

These elements of the proposal would transform the experience of Colorado children during their most rapid years of development. With more than 1 million new neural connections forming every second in the earliest years of life, ensuring all children have equitable access to quality early care and learning opportunities is one of the best strategies for improving kids' school and life outcomes. In addition, these investments boost our economy by supporting parents', and particularly women's ability to re-enter and stay in the workforce so they can advance their families' economic opportunities.

Aspen City Council has chosen 3 critical goals for the coming year. One of these goals is to increase the number of available childcare spaces. This will be accomplished through:

- ✓ **Plan, design to repurpose or build new buildings to add physical capacity to increase available childcare space.**

- ✓ **Increase the recruitment and retention of qualified early childhood teachers**
- ✓ **Generate funding to support the development of new childcare spaces**

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure an investment that could truly create a better early learning system — one that works for both families and educators. There is no question that childcare is an integral pillar supporting America's economic recovery and long-term success.

Thank you.



Torre
MAYOR

John Doyle, Ward Hauenstein, Skippy Mesirow, Rachel Richards
ASPEN CITY COUNCIL