



National Association for the  
Education of Young Children

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal,

For 100 years, and in partnership with nearly 50,000 members representing early childhood educators, advocates, and allies across the country, the National Association for the Education of Young Children promotes high quality early learning opportunities for children birth through age 8 and works to advance a diverse dynamic early childhood education profession. It is in light of that mission that we write today to thank the Ways and Means Committee for its unanimous vote to favorably advance H.R. 5334, the “Supporting Early-childhood Educators’ Deductions Act of 2025” to the full House for consideration.

Early childhood educators in communities across the country engage in complex, skilled work and play an essential role in building the foundation of children’s lifelong development and learning. Yet education before kindergarten is not financed as robustly by public dollars as K-12 education and largely takes place in a mixed delivery system of public and private community- and home-based programs. As a result, most early childhood educators earn lower wages and have less access to professional benefits than their peers working in K-12 classrooms. Yet, like their peers working in K-12 education, many early childhood educators also take on additional personal expenses to improve the environments in which young children learn and develop.

According to NAEYC’s most recent ECE workforce survey,<sup>1</sup> nearly 1 in 4 early childhood educators indicated they were considering leaving the field in the next year, yet more than 60 percent of those considering leaving indicated that higher or sufficient wages would make them much more likely to stay in the field. Solving for the broader compensation challenges facing early childhood educators will require significant and sustained public investments, both from the federal government and the states. But legislation like the SEED Act plays a meaningful role as well, both in helping to offset expenses early childhood educators take on to support young children’s development, and in recognizing the value of early childhood education and educators working with children before they reach school-age. We thank the Committee for its bipartisan work to advance this important legislation and urge its passage by the full House of Representatives.

With gratitude,

The National Association for the Education of Young Children

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/user-174467/2026\\_survey\\_brief.pdf](https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/user-174467/2026_survey_brief.pdf)