



...ensuring affordable, accessible, high quality child care for all young children.

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Local Leader to Testify Before House Committee in D.C.**

On Thursday, March 19, Sue Russell, president of Child Care Services Association (CCSA) in Chapel Hill, will testify at the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee Hearing on Improving Early Childhood Development Policies and Practices. The hearing is part of the House Education and Labor Committee's week-long series of committee and subcommittee hearings devoted to strengthening early childhood education.

Ms. Russell will highlight the need to provide support services to early care and education providers that will allow them to increase their education and compensation and will profile two highly successful projects, the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGE\$® projects.

Created in 1990, CCSA's T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project provides early childhood educators with higher education scholarships. What began as a pilot project serving 21 teachers in Durham and Orange counties, now provides over 4,000 scholarships a year in NC and is licensed in 20 other states. Through the licensure of this program nationally, over 20,000 early childhood teachers were able to take college courses in 2007. To help support low-paid teachers and encourage them to stay in the early childhood field, CCSA created the Child Care WAGE\$® Project in 1994. This salary supplement program rewards education earned and provides salary bonuses to participating child care providers in NC and is licensed in 2 other states.

"It is important that we continue to work to support and improve the early care and education system in this country. Disparate access to quality child care exists across age groups, within states and between states. Significantly more investments are needed to improve the education and compensation of the early childhood workforce and ensure a uniform level of quality early care and education for all young children," Sue Russell said.

*About CCSA:*

*Founded in 1974, Child Care Services Association (CCSA) is a nationally recognized nonprofit working to ensure affordable, accessible, high-quality child care for all children and families. The organization accomplishes its mission through direct services, research and advocacy. CCSA provides a nutrition program for children in child care settings, free referral services to families seeking child care and quality improvement assistance to child care businesses. CCSA's T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project provides educational scholarships to early childhood educators in every North Carolina county and is licensed in 20 other states. The Child Care WAGE\$® Project provides salary supplements to child care providers throughout the state and is licensed in two other states. For more information, visit [www.childcareservices.org](http://www.childcareservices.org).*

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