

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 7, 2026

Hon. Alex J. Adams, PharmD, MPH
Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families
Mary. E Switzer Building
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Adams,

Thank you for your continued leadership of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). I write to commend your decision to end the mandate of enrollment-based reimbursement for federally funded child care services. The State of Ohio currently employs an attendance-based reimbursement model and has collaborated with ACF to ensure it is not required to transition to an enrollment-based reimbursement model, which raises concerns about program integrity.

The ACF's action will help prevent fraud, protect taxpayers, and ensure federal dollars only pay for care actually delivered to working families. A suspension of the enrollment-based reimbursement mandate allows states to reimburse child care services based on actual attendance, a system that the state of Ohio currently uses. Revelations in recent months of billions of dollars in fraud and theft in means-tested programs¹, including to facilities allegedly providing child care services to falsely enrolled individuals in Minneapolis, Minnesota², support your decision to allow attendance-based reimbursement.

While attendance-based reimbursement for childcare is not the only remedy to prevent bad actors from abusing other means-tested programs, like the recent home-health care fraud allegations in Ohio³, it does create a verifiable attendance record and ensures taxpayer dollars are used for families utilizing program resources, and makes it much easier for states to protect program integrity.

Rising child care costs strain working Ohio families. The enactment of the Working Families Tax Cuts Act in July 2025 made raising children more affordable via a permanent increase of the Child Tax Credit, an increase to the Employer-Provided Child Care Credit, and the creation of Trump Accounts – tax-advantaged savings accounts for children's futures.⁴ This important work is continued by ACF's decision to allow attendance-based reimbursement.

¹ <https://www.newsweek.com/minnesota-medicaid-fraud-billions-tim-walz-11239997>

² <https://www.newsweek.com/daycare-center-minnesota-fraud-video-violations-11280554>

³ <https://www.newsweek.com/alleged-ohio-fraud-schemes-under-scrutiny-after-viral-minnesota-video-11282032>

⁴ <https://www.congress.gov/119/plaws/publ21/PLAW-119publ21.pdf>

JON HUSTED
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Federal legislators and executives have a responsibility to ensure that dollars spent on reimbursing child care and other means-tested programs go towards the families and providers that need it most. Your decision to end the enrollment-based reimbursement mandate will help better ensure the integrity of taxpayer dollars, and I look forward to working with you to continue protecting taxpayers from fraud.

Sincerely,



Jon Husted
United States Senator