Dear Child Care Resources community,

As we have been collaborating together this year to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, address the financial crisis we are living in, and undo racism in our systems and communities, **advocacy has become even more central to living our mission**. Our staff, providers, families and community partners have been active at all levels of government this year to advocate for meaningful supports for children, families and child care providers.

This legislative session we are asking the legislature for a response that truly matches the scale of the child care crisis. We have an opportunity to advocate for significant systems-change legislation such as the **Fair Starts for Kids Act (HB 1213/ SB 5237)** and a dedicated, progressive revenue source that will bring robust and consistent funding to our early learning system that has long suffered from underinvestment. We invite you to check out our **2021 Legislative Agenda** and **Bill Tracker** to learn more about the issues we are working on. We are also starting **Advocacy Pods** that we encourage you to be a part of. It will be an opportunity to meet with advocates in your legislative district to ensure we are successful in building an early learning system that truly works for everyone! **Click here** to join an Advocacy Pod!

Sincerely,

Sarah Brady, Policy & Advocacy Manager
Hello, my name is Tess Foy, I am the new Mobilization Coordinator for Child Care Resources and First 5 Fundamentals Tacoma. I joined the Advocacy Team in December of 2020, which meant I got to dive into my work at the busiest time right before the state legislative session. In my first few weeks, I have prepped providers and parents to speak before legislators during bill hearings and town halls, held advocacy trainings for several community groups, and even testified myself in support of healthcare for child care providers!

Previously I was an Early Achievers Coach, nanny, and infant teacher. My prior roles and experiences provided me with an array of opportunities to fully understand the Early Learning System. From those roles, I got an up close and personal view of the needs of providers, children, and families. This has allowed me to do my work more effectively. I use my prior experiences to empower and engage with providers and families/parents. When engaging with them, I provide support by letting them know that their voice and experiences are important and deserve to be heard by the lawmakers of our state. Since they are the ones in the field doing the selfless work, they should have a seat at the table to express concerns and ask for equitable changes. Another side of my role is connecting with Early Learning organizations and practitioners to create more opportunities for equitable and realistic policies to be put in place that values every individual family, provider, and most importantly child.

I love my role because it provides me with opportunities to connect with an array of individuals who want what’s best for every child. I ensure equity is always at the forefront of my work to combat the growing Achievement/Opportunity Gap. Working with people that share my passion for healthy and equitable child development opportunities makes my role even better. Because there is a larger umbrella of supports that go along with supporting a child, we must provide resources to childcare providers and parents/families, which in turn, offers more quality supports for the child’s growth and development.

Fun Fact: I used to play the Clarinet from 7th grade all through High School! I was also in Marching Band all throughout High School!
Check out Recent News and Updates!

**CCR ADVOCACY KICK-OFF**
Learn about our advocacy efforts & join a zoom pod!
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Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda honored with Ruth Kagi Award
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**YEAR-END CAMPAIGN**
Thank you to our community for supporting our campaign. See how much we raised!
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**FAIR START FOR KIDS**
A legislative proposal to make early learning more affordable and accessible
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