



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON

**children
& families**

Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count

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**For Immediate Release
May 12, 2008**

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WCCF Applauds Inclusion of Child Care Funding in Repair Bill Council Looks Forward to Discussion of Long-Term Solutions

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) applauds the inclusion in the budget repair bill unveiled today of \$18.6 million to address the funding shortfall in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. The additional funds come with new statutory language that ends a recently introduced absence policy which cut costs by reducing payments to licensed child care providers.

“Wisconsin Shares is critical to the well-being of so many of the state’s hard-working families,” said Jill Jacklitz, acting executive director of WCCF. “It’s gratifying to see that Sen. Decker, Speaker Huebsch, the rest of the leaders in the Legislature, and Gov. Doyle understand the importance of investing in children’s earliest years.”

While pleased to see that the bill addresses funding for Wisconsin Shares, WCCF recognizes that painful cuts have already been made across the board, and that further budget challenges lie ahead.

“Everybody realizes that we can’t continue to cut and stall our way out of this bind forever,” Jacklitz said. “We look forward to working with legislators and the Governor to find long-term fiscal solutions. It’s time to turn our attention to identifying additional sources of revenue, like revisiting the hospital tax that would draw down more federal funds, reinstating the estate tax, and closing corporate tax loopholes. These options could allow us to avoid having to make such painful decisions in the future.”