

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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DISMANTLING OF D.O.E. COULD BECOME 'A SHORT-SIGHTED PLAN WITH LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES,' SAYS ALL OUR KIN

(New Haven, CT) – In response to today's Executive Order regarding the Department of Education, Jessica Sager, CEO of All Our Kin, a national organization that trains, supports and sustains home-based child care, issued the following statement:

"We are gravely concerned that this Executive Order could foster a short-sighted plan with long-term consequences – one that could leave an entire generation of children academically underprepared and hanging in the balance.

"The move to dismantle the Department of Education (D.O.E.) stands to affect even our earliest learners. Since the pandemic, the home-based child care educators in All Our Kin's networks have seen a significant <u>surge in toddlers struggling with language and learning delays</u>. The D.O.E. provides critically important early intervention services, including for children aged 0 to 3. This is also true for the children in grades K-12 who desperately need special education services, or whose schools depend on Title I funding to close achievement gaps. While President Trump stated that funding for these programs will remain intact, concerning questions about continuity, implementation of services, and equitable access remain.

"The long-term effects of failing to meet the needs of children are well documented. Those with disabilities that go unaddressed, for example, are ultimately more likely to experience unemployment or be involved with the criminal justice system. This, in turn, decreases tax revenue and overall economic impact. Actions to shrink the D.O.E. in the name of cost-cutting could overburden states and ultimately lead to far greater societal and economic consequences.

"The role of the D.O.E. is to give each and every child a chance. Today's executive order is cruel, shortsighted, and will have long-term consequences for our children, our economy and our country. Lawmakers must block efforts to dismantle the D.O.E. to ensure a bright future for our children."

<u>All Our Kin</u> is a national nonprofit organization that trains, supports and sustains family child care educators. Through All Our Kin's programming, educators build sustainable child care businesses, parents have access to stable, high-quality child care, and children gain the educational foundation that lays the groundwork for success in school and life.