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All Our Kin Celebrates Connecticut's Historic Progress Toward Universal Child Care

NEW HAVEN, CT – Connecticut lawmakers on Saturday approved SB 1, a landmark \$300 million annual investment to expand access to child care across the state, aimed to create 16,000 new slots by 2030 and no-cost care for families earning under \$100,000. In response, Jessica Sager, CEO and co-founder of All Our Kin, a Connecticut-based national nonprofit that supports and sustains family child care educators, issued the following statement:

"The passage of this bill is a historic moment for child care in Connecticut. We applaud state leaders for taking this bold action to address our child care crisis—one that has long strained families, educators, and our communities as a whole. SB 1 signifies the ability for far more families to access high-quality care for their children, and to stay in the workforce and support our state's economy. It will also help provide wage increases and a health insurance subsidy program for educators, who are providing essential care across the state.

"Years of tireless advocacy from Connecticut's child care leaders, early childhood educators, and policymakers across the state has led to this moment, which is a giant step forward for children, families and educators and lays the groundwork for a stronger system. It is especially encouraging that family child care educators will be able to leverage Early Start, and we look forward to working with the state to ensure home-based providers can readily access and benefit from this new system.

"We're in the midst of a national shift toward universal child care. Connecticut has now joined the ranks of states across the country that are stepping up for children, families, and providers—and we're excited by the potential of even more progress in the future."

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<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.