



IOWA FEDERAL CANDIDATE SURVEY ON SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL WORKERS IN CAREGIVING AND EDUCATION

The Iowa Helping Community Policy Group is asking all Iowa candidates for Congress to respond to three questions regarding essential workers in caregiving and education. We will post responses on our website (www.iowahelpers.org) beginning August 17, 2022. We are asking for yes/no/other responses and welcome any other comments on each of the questions. We are providing a brief context for asking these questions (more information about us and this workforce is on our website – www.iowahelpers.org). To respond, please complete the survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/97RWWH6>

Context. Covid-19 raised much greater attention to the role that essential workers – particularly in helping, caregiving, and education roles – play in society and the need to value and support them. These include doctors and nurses and classroom teachers – but they also include frontline direct care, community health, and child care workers.

These workers are vital to Iowa and the nation’s well-being and the people they serve. They represent a workforce behind the workforce, supporting workers and their productivity. They also themselves are part of the workforce and economy. When well-resourced and supported, these workers can build careers that enable them to raise their own families and contribute to the economy. Currently, despite the essential nature of the work these direct care, community health, and child care workers do, they are under-resourced and among the lowest paid of workers in society.

Among other actions, the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act took first steps in providing major new federal investments in direct care workers, child care workers, and community health workers.

The Iowa Helping Community Policy Group advocates for making major increased investments in these workforces a permanent part of the federal budget. We are asking all candidates for Congress to respond to the following questions.

Questions

1. Do you support making increased investments in **child care** initiated in COVID-19 legislation (approximately \$40 billion annually) as a permanent part of the federal budget? Please answer YES NO or OTHER and provide any explanation you want for your answer.

2. Do you support making enhanced federal investments in **direct care workers** through Medicaid home and community-based services (approximately \$20 billion annually) as a permanent part of the federal budget? Please answer YES NO or OTHER and provide any explanation you want for your answer.
3. Do you support investing additional federal funds for **community health workers** (approximately \$5 billion annually) within public health as a permanent part of the federal budget? Please answer YES NO or OTHER and provide any explanation you want for your answer.
4. Name _____ Congressional District/Senate _____

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Survey can be completed at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/97RWWH6>

Responses (or questions) also can be emailed to: bruner@childequity.org.

Responses will be posted on the Iowa Helping Community Policy Group website beginning August 10, 2022.