[Date]

Bob Anderson, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Human Services
PO Box 352

Jackson, MS 39205

**Subject:** Urgent Request to Use TANF Funds to Sustain the Child Care Payment Program

Dear Director Anderson,

As a Mississippi child care provider, I am writing with deep concern regarding the recent changes to the Child Care Payment Program (CCPP), specifically the temporary hold on new applications and redeterminations that began April 1, 2025.

This sudden change, with minimal notice to providers or families, is causing significant hardship for working parents and threatens the financial stability of child care centers across our state. Families not falling into the six narrow eligibility categories are being denied access to essential child care, and many are now facing impossible choices—leave their jobs or leave their children without safe, quality care.

We believe this crisis is preventable.

Mississippi has a surplus of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds that could be used—lawfully and effectively—to maintain CCPP services at current levels. Other states have done this. Mississippi can too. We urge MDHS to:

1. Immediately lift the hold on new and renewing CCPP applications.
2. Allocate additional TANF funds to fully support the program’s current enrollment.
3. Increase transparency by clearly and proactively communicating with all affected families.

We ask that you act with urgency. Child care is not a luxury. It is a cornerstone of family stability and workforce participation. Please do what is right and within your power to protect Mississippi’s children, parents, and providers.

Sincerely,
 [Your Full Name]
 [Your Center Name or Title]
 [City, MS]
 [Contact Info]