



## CALL TO ACTION

Sustaining Early Childhood Education as a  
Foundation for Democracy

April 13, 2026

Greetings, friends, colleagues, and comrades,

We write this **fifth Call to Action Bulletin** as May Day approaches, the international day of worker solidarity and labor action directed towards racial, economic, immigration, and gender justice.



In our field of early childhood care and education, we have celebrated May Day as [Worthy Wage Day](#), a day of action anchored by an ongoing campaign for “rights, raises, and respect” for caregivers and educators of young children. These days, Worthy Wage Day has fallen to the side in many communities.

Yet this remains an absolutely current issue.

At an Easter lunch reception, Trump said: “I told [my budget director] ‘Don’t send any money for daycare because the United States can’t take care of daycare. ... We’re fighting wars. We can’t take care of daycare... We have to take care of one thing, military protection.’”

This statement—alongside every other cruel, criminal, and immoral word and deed of this administration—should mobilize us in ECE to participate in the national [May Day Strong](#) call to action: **No Work, No School, No Shopping, No Business as Usual.**

How might you and your organization participate? We can learn from Worthy Wage Day strikes, marches, rallies, and creative [public actions](#) during the 1980s and 1990s:

- Administrators closed childcare centers, preschools, and family child care programs for the day so that staff and families could participate in Worthy Wage Day activities.

- In centers that didn't act in support of Worthy Wage Day, educators called out sick and joined collective public action.
- Some centers stayed open and participated in the community's Worthy Wage Day actions as field trips with children, families, and staff.
- Parents organized to act in solidarity by staying out of work, telling their employers that "We all depend on childcare."

It is time to reclaim and reinvigorate our labor history. We ask that you participate in May Day Strong, drawing on the legacy of collective action in ECE. Find a May Day Strong action already planned in your community or create your own; you'll find resources, tool kits, and a map at [May Day Strong](#).

We leave you with the stirring lyricism of poet and UNICEF Ambassador Amanda Gorman, who reminds us of our ethical responsibility to speak and act "audacious and audible".

*With this bright voice  
we speak audacious and audible;  
Our purpose,  
not just ethical, but eternal.  
For while every child is rightfully unique,  
The right to childhood  
is universal.  
We must care for  
every child, everywhere,  
No matter their race, religion,  
or gender.  
In this, we never  
back down;  
we never surrender,  
Because every child deserves a chance,  
And this world  
deserves a change.*

*With this bright voice  
we speak,  
audacious and audible;  
What yesterday we might have called  
obstacles,  
Today are opportunities that make us  
unstoppable.  
We respond in every  
strife and struggle,  
Because every child is phenomenal,  
And to every child  
we are responsible.  
This is not just purpose.  
Now, more than ever,  
It is possible.*

Watch Amanda Gorman's full spoken word poem: ["With This Bright Voice"](#)

With solidarity audacious and audible,  
Margie, Ann and Nicky