



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
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JIM FLORIO  
GOVERNOR

October 26, 1990

The Honorable George Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Affordable and adequate child care is an issue that American families deal with every day of the year. Hundreds of thousands of hard-working, yet struggling parents across the country must find the answer to a very difficult question: "Who can I trust to care for my child?"

I want to tell you about the answer that one young mother in New Jersey found. "No one." For the last month, a 24-year old single mother chose to lock her child in the trunk of her car with a blanket, a balloon, a stuffed animal and some food while she worked part-time as a saleswoman at a shopping mall. She would use her short work breaks to periodically check on the child.

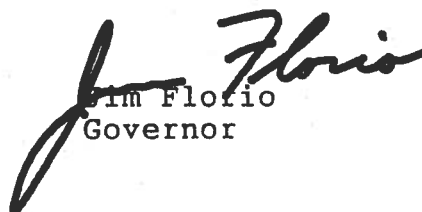
This young New Jersey mother attempted to hire a series of babysitters only to find that they left the child alone for long periods, brought boyfriends to the house, and stole food that was in the home. New Jersey has some 600,000 children under the age of six. Only 200,000 of them are in licensed day care facilities. Others enjoy the luxury of having extended families to care for their youngsters. Unfortunately, that leaves tens of thousands of children whose parents must work in order to survive and provide support for families. Or, in the case of 5-year old Anjulie Fernandez, a growing number of single parents who are unable to cope.

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This is but one case of desperation on the part of one young mother. But it dramatically highlights the need for immediate action on a bill that I co-sponsored while I was in the Congress in 1988: The Act for Better Child Care. The Congress should pass this legislation and I urge you to sign it.

Parents and children in this state and across the nation have waited a number of years for child care relief. Quite simply, they cannot afford to wait much longer. For their sake, I urge you to sign the ABC bill when it reaches your desk.

Sincerely,



Jim Florio  
Governor