Acknowledgments

As with any project that spans several years and bridges different stages of one's professional life, in writing this book I owe thanks to many individuals. I am particularly grateful for the guidance and insight provided by faculty at Columbia University when as a doctoral student I embarked upon the study of child care politics and policy. In particular, Lawrence Brown, Richard Pious, Richard Nelson, Sheila Kamerman, and John Colombotos were a vibrant team of dissertation advisers whose perspectives helped create the vision for this book years later. Robert Shapiro’s advice and review of various chapters were invaluable.

At Yale University I was fortunate to work with colleagues at the School of Nursing who encouraged me to write the book. Donna Diers has always been a special source of inspiration, graciously reviewed several drafts of early chapters, and helped me pull together seemingly disparate themes. Judith Krauss reviewed drafts of later chapters and shared responsibilities that enabled me to devote time to writing the book. I thank Margaret Grey for helping to make available funding for research assistance. Catherine Gilliss facilitated the grant of a sabbatical from the university, which enabled me to complete the manuscript. Ted Marmor at the Yale School of Management helped sharpen my thinking and writing. Lynn Sennett gave wise editorial advice. I also thank Linda Juszczak, Dorothy Needham, Stephanie Webb, Emily Sadinsky, Kathleen Ennis, and Vanessa Morgan for their research assistance. Kevin Morrissey and the late Barry Bluestein were catalysts for converting the project into book form.
Background research for this book led me to several libraries and archives. At Yale University, Sandra Peterson facilitated the retrieval of numerous government documents, and Jocelyn Tipton guided searches of public opinion data. Scott Parham helped with research at the Nixon Project in the early 1990s. Dallas Lindgren guided archival research at the Minnesota Historical Society. The Yale Center for the Humanities provided a small grant to subsidize research at the Minnesota Historical Society.

I appreciate the scores of individuals who generously gave their time to be interviewed, explained the nuances of child care politics, and reviewed manuscript excerpts. As a condition of their consenting to be interviewed, I cannot identify them by name. Nonetheless, a few can be singled out for their outstanding contributions. First and foremost, Helen Blank at the Children’s Defense Fund tirelessly commented on the entire manuscript and numerous rewrites. Her institutional memory, political sensitivity, concern for objective and accurate writing, and generous giving of her time helped shape this book in uncountable ways. Joan Lombardi also reviewed several chapters. Her insights and good cheer were much appreciated. Staff to legislators from both parties in the House and Senate offered important information. Ruby Takanishi and Margaret Blood were instrumental in broadening my analyses and networks.

Excerpts from this book were presented as papers at the American Political Science Association’s annual meetings in 1998 and 1999. Gary Mucciaroni, Christopher Klyza, and Michael Hagen offered useful feedback that was incorporated into the final manuscript. At Columbia University Press, John Michel offered wise counsel from the book’s inception through completion. His sense of humor was a welcome relief on many occasions. Sabine Seiler copyedited the manuscript. Irene Pavitt, Anne McCoy, and the other members of the editorial and production staff patiently converted the manuscript pages to bound book. I also appreciate the advice of the anonymous reviewer whose careful review illuminated how the book related to other aspects of welfare and family policy.

I am incredibly thankful to Sarah Zaino, whose administrative and editing assistance kept me on course. Her research and organizing talents are invaluable treasures. Finally, I thank my husband, Arnold, and son, Aaron, for the many hours of family time that they had to forgo as I wrote the book. Arnold’s belief in the importance of the book and Aaron’s acceptance of my prolonged absences enabled me to keep on going. Indeed, writing the book while working and raising a preschool child showed me firsthand the importance of quality child care.