

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8456

To support infrastructure investment in small and rural child care facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2026

Mr. PAPPAS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To support infrastructure investment in small and rural child
care facilities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Child Care Ac-
5 cess Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BUILDING UP INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LOCAL CHILD**
7 **CARE GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) GRANT AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of
9 Health and Human Services is authorized to make grants
10 to State and local child care facilities that serve jurisdic-

1 tions with fewer than 50,000 residents for use in accord-
2 ance with subsection (b).

3 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available to a
5 State or local child care facility under this section
6 shall be used for projects to modify, upgrade, or con-
7 struct a child care facility, which projects shall have
8 a substantial nexus to—

9 (A) the improvement of the provision of
10 child care;

11 (B) the training and development of child
12 care providers;

13 (C) the recruitment and retention of child
14 care providers; or

15 (D) community engagement.

16 (2) CLARIFICATION.—No portion of funds made
17 available under this section for a project to modify,
18 upgrade, or construct a child care facility may be
19 used for any part of the facility that does not have
20 a substantial nexus to subparagraphs (A) through
21 (D).

22 (c) APPLICATION.—The head of a child care facility
23 seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
24 retary of Health and Human Services an application at
25 such time, in such manner, and containing such informa-

1 tion as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may
2 reasonably require, including an estimate of the cost of
3 the project for which the grant will be used, as well as
4 a demonstration of financial need for the grant.

5 (d) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
6 HUMAN SERVICES.—

7 (1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 120 days after
8 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
9 of Health and Human Services shall issue guidance
10 to carry out the grant program under this section.

11 (2) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—The
12 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall dis-
13 tribute information about the grant program under
14 this section to eligible child care facilities.

15 (3) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding
16 grants under this section, the Secretary of Health
17 and Human Services shall ensure, to the extent
18 practicable, an equitable geographic distribution
19 among the regions of the United States.

20 (4) REPORT.—On the date that is 2 years after
21 the date of enactment of this section, and biannually
22 thereafter until the date that is 6 years after the
23 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of
24 Health and Human Services shall submit to Con-
25 gress and make publicly available a report on the

1 grant program administered under this section,
2 which shall include—

3 (A) updates on building progress for
4 projects funded by grants awarded under this
5 section, including information on whether
6 projects are complete or experiencing delays;

7 (B) impacts of the project on the commu-
8 nity; and

9 (C) existing project needs.

10 (e) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant awarded under this
11 section may not exceed \$4,000,000.

12 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health
14 and Human Services to carry out this section
15 \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029.

16 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

17 The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
18 periodically conduct and publish a study of the met and
19 unmet construction and renovation needs of a national
20 sample of child care facilities.

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