

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2166

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include child development and early learning as community services under the Federal work-study program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 25 (legislative day, JUNE 24), 2025

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include child development and early learning as community services under the Federal work-study program, and for other purposes.

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 “Head Start for Our  
5       Future Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING COM-**  
 2 **MUNITY SERVICES THROUGH FEDERAL**  
 3 **WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 441(c)(1) of the Higher  
 5 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–51(c)(1)) is  
 6 amended by striking “literacy training” and inserting  
 7 “child development and early learning (including Head  
 8 Start programs and Early Head Start programs carried  
 9 out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.)),  
 10 literacy training”.

11 (b) AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 443(b) of  
 12 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–  
 13 53(b)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” after  
 15 the semicolon;

16 (2) by redesignating paragraph (11) as para-  
 17 graph (12); and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(11) provide assurances that any Head Start  
 20 program, including an Early Head Start program,  
 21 employing students through a work-study program  
 22 under this part will comply with the requirements of  
 23 sections 645A(j) and 648A(h), respectively, of the  
 24 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840a(j), 9843a(h));  
 25 and”.

1 **SEC. 3. HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START REQUIRE-**  
 2 **MENTS.**

3 (a) EARLY HEAD START.—Section 645A of the Head  
 4 Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840a) is amended by adding at the  
 5 end the following:

6 “(j) STUDENTS IN WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS.—In the  
 7 case of a student serving an Early Head Start program  
 8 through a work-study program under section 441(c)(1) of  
 9 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–  
 10 51(c)(1))—

11 “(1) before the Early Head Start agency in-  
 12 volved employs the student, the agency shall comply  
 13 with the requirements of section 648A(g)(3);

14 “(2) the student shall comply with all personnel  
 15 policies applicable to the Early Head Start program  
 16 under the Head Start program performance stand-  
 17 ards issued under this subchapter; and

18 “(3) the student shall serve the Early Head  
 19 Start program as an additional paid staff member  
 20 but—

21 “(A) shall not be left alone with any child  
 22 through the program, meaning that a paid staff  
 23 member (not in such a work-study program)  
 24 shall attend when the student so serves; and

25 “(B) shall not count toward the staff in-  
 26 cluded in any staff-to-child ratio applicable to

1           the Early Head Start program under this sub-  
2           chapter.”.

3           (b) HEAD START.—Section 648A of the Head Start  
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 9843a) is amended by adding at the end  
5 the following:

6           “(h) STUDENTS IN WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS.—In  
7 the case of a student serving a Head Start program (not  
8 an Early Head Start program) through a work-study pro-  
9 gram under section 441(c)(1) of the Higher Education Act  
10 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–51(c)(1))—

11           “(1) before the Head Start agency involved em-  
12 ploys the student, the agency shall comply with the  
13 requirements of subsection (g)(3);

14           “(2) the student shall comply with all personnel  
15 policies applicable to the Head Start program under  
16 the Head Start program performance standards  
17 issued under this subchapter; and

18           “(3) the student shall serve the Head Start pro-  
19 gram as an additional paid staff member but—

20           “(A) shall not be left alone with any child  
21 through the program, meaning that a paid staff  
22 member (not in such a work-study program)  
23 shall attend when the student so serves; and

24           “(B) shall not count toward the staff in-  
25 cluded in any staff-to-child ratio applicable to

- 1 the Head Start program under this sub-
- 2 chapter.”.

