

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3862

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require States to make payments to child care providers based on verified attendance in child care programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. LEE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require States to make payments to child care providers based on verified attendance in child care programs, 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 “Payment Integrity
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PAYMENT PRACTICES.**

7 Section 658E of the Child Care and Development
8 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (c)(2), by adding by striking
2 subparagraph (S) and inserting the following:

3 “(S) ATTENDANCE-BASED BILLING.—The
4 plan shall include an assurance that the lead
5 agency will provide payment under this sub-
6 chapter to a child care provider based on
7 verified attendance, rather than enrollment
8 alone, in the program of the provider, and will
9 conduct that verification through the use of at-
10 tendance records or another reasonable
11 verification method.”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(e) TIMING OF PAYMENT.—Nothing in this sub-
14 chapter shall be construed to require a lead agency to
15 make a payment to a child care provider prior to the provi-
16 sion of child care services. The lead agency may make a
17 payment to such a provider under this subchapter after
18 the provider’s provision of child care services.”.

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