

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2452

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to counties to carry out programs to provide to parents in families participating in State programs funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, training relating to early childhood development and education to prepare such parents for employment as caregivers by providers of high quality child care services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 1997

Ms. WOOLSEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to counties to carry out programs to provide to parents in families participating in State programs funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, training relating to early childhood development and education to prepare such parents for employment as caregivers by providers of high quality child care services.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Parents as First
3 Teachers Act of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) New scientific research shows that experi-
7 ences in the first 3 years of life have a dramatic im-
8 pact on brain development.

9 (2) Experiences in the earliest years of a child’s
10 life are critical to their cognitive, emotional, and
11 physical development.

12 (3) Nurturing and stimulating children in the
13 first years of life prepare them for the challenges of
14 school and later life.

15 (4) According to a Carnegie Corporation publi-
16 cation entitled “Years of Promise: A Comprehensive
17 Strategy for America’s Children,” kindergarten
18 teachers estimate that 1 out of every 3 children en-
19 ters the classroom unprepared to meet the chal-
20 lenges of kindergarten.

21 (5) Children who receive high quality child care
22 services are less likely to need special education, be
23 retained a grade, or engage in juvenile delinquency
24 or other antisocial behavior as they grow up.

25 (6) According to “The State of America’s Chil-
26 dren, Yearbook 1997,” published by the Children’s

1 Defense Fund, approximately 7,700,000 children
2 less than 5 years of age are being cared for by some-
3 one other than their parents while their mothers
4 work.

5 (7) Documented in the 1997 edition of “Key
6 Facts About Child Care and Early Education: A
7 Briefing Book,” also published by the Children’s De-
8 fense Fund, is the fact that 60 percent of mothers
9 with children less than 6 years of age, and 52 per-
10 cent of mothers with children less than 1 year of
11 age, are working outside the home.

12 (8) Demand for child care services in low-in-
13 come communities will rise dramatically through
14 2002 as a result of the enactment of the Personal
15 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation
16 Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–193).

17 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

18 (1) to provide financial assistance to train, to
19 support, and to place as early childhood teaching
20 professionals, parents in families that receive assist-
21 ance under State programs funded under part A of
22 title IV of the Social Security Act,

23 (2) to increase nationwide the number of quali-
24 fied individuals who provide early childhood edu-
25 cation,

1 (3) to reduce dependency on assistance under
2 State programs funded under part A of title IV of
3 the Social Security Act, and

4 (4) to increase the number of children who re-
5 ceive high quality child care services.

6 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**

7 The Secretary of Health and Human Services may
8 make grants to eligible counties to carry out programs—

9 (1) to provide to parents in families that receive
10 assistance under State programs funded under part
11 A of title IV of the Social Security Act, training re-
12 lating to early childhood development and education
13 for the purpose of preparing such parents for obtain-
14 ing employment as caregivers of high quality child
15 care services, and

16 (2) to provide supportive services and job place-
17 ment services to such parents necessary for their
18 participation in such training and their obtaining
19 such employment at the completion of such training.

20 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE GRANTS.**

21 To be eligible to receive a grant under section 3, a
22 county shall submit to the Secretary an application that
23 contains all of the following:

1 (1) An assurance that the county has estab-
2 lished an administrative committee that will admin-
3 ister such program and that includes at least—

4 (A) 1 representative of a county agency
5 that has responsibility for the development of
6 the local work force,

7 (B) 1 representative of a county agency
8 that has responsibility for providing human
9 services to residents of the county,

10 (C) 1 representative of a county agency
11 that has responsibility for providing training
12 and employment services to such residents,

13 (D) 1 representative of a county agency
14 that has supervisory responsibility for public
15 education provided by the county,

16 (E) 1 representative of an institution of
17 higher education that will provide educational
18 services through the program for which such
19 grant is requested, and

20 (F) 1 representative of a center-based child
21 care provider that will participate in such pro-
22 gram.

23 (2) Information on the identities and qualifica-
24 tions of the members of such committee and on how
25 such committee will administer such program.

1 (3) A plan that—

2 (A) contains information describing how
3 parents in families that receive assistance under
4 State programs funded under part A of title IV
5 of the Social Security Act will be selected to
6 participate in such program,

7 (B) identifies the institutions of higher
8 education that will provide educational services
9 and training through such program and speci-
10 fies with respect to each of such institutions,
11 the course requirements that must be satisfied
12 to complete the education program or training
13 program to be provided,

14 (C) describes the supportive services that
15 will be provided, directly or indirectly, by the
16 county for the benefit of such families to permit
17 such parents to participate in such program,
18 and

19 (D) contains a plan for the job placement
20 of, and follow-up services for a post-employment
21 period not to exceed 13 weeks for, such parents
22 who complete the participation requirements es-
23 tablished in such program.

24 (4) An assurance that such program will pro-
25 vide to participating parents in families that receive

1 assistance under State programs funded under part
2 A of title IV of the Social Security Act—

3 (A) not less than 228 hours of classroom
4 instruction, and

5 (B) not less than 200 hours of clinical
6 training, of which not less than 63 hours shall
7 consist of experience as a caregiver on the busi-
8 ness premises of a center-based child care pro-
9 vider.

10 (5) Assurance that such grant will be used
11 only—

12 (A) to provide education and training serv-
13 ices, supportive services, job placement services,
14 and post-employment follow-up services that
15 satisfy the requirements of such plan,

16 (B) at the option of the county, to pay
17 compensation for the services of an individual
18 employed by the county to manage the imple-
19 mentation of such plan and the operation of
20 such program, and

21 (C) to pay costs incurred by participants in
22 such program to comply with health and safety
23 requirements (including fingerprinting and
24 medical testing) applicable to caregivers em-
25 ployed by center-based child care providers.

1 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act—

3 (1) the term “caregiver” means an individual
4 who provides service directly to a child on a person-
5 to-person basis,

6 (2) the term “child” means an individual who
7 is less than the age of compulsory school attendance,

8 (3) the term “county” means—

9 (A) a county of a State or a parish in the
10 case of the State of Louisiana, or

11 (B) the District of Columbia, the Common-
12 wealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of
13 the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Amer-
14 ican Samoa, or the Virgin Islands of the United
15 States,

16 (4) the term “follow-up services” means serv-
17 ices designed to assist individuals to successfully
18 perform their job requirements as a caregiver of
19 high quality child care services during their first em-
20 ployment obtained after their completion of the
21 training received in a program carried out under this
22 section by a county.

23 (5) the term “institution of higher education”
24 has the meaning given such term in section 1201(a)
25 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
26 1141(a)),

1 (6) the term “State” means any of the several
2 States, and

3 (7) the term “supportive services” includes
4 child care services for children less than 13 years of
5 age and transportation.

6 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
8 as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001,
9 2002, and 2003 to carry out this Act.

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