

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2713

To establish a grant program to improve the quality and expand the availability of child care services, and of family support services, for families with children less than 3 years of age.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 23, 1997

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. HOYER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish a grant program to improve the quality and expand the availability of child care services, and of family support services, for families with children less than 3 years of age.

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 “Early Learning and
5 Opportunity State Grants Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The first 3 years of life are a critical period
2 of brain development, intellectual growth, and emo-
3 tional, social, affective, and moral development, that
4 help determine the health and productivity of a child
5 in later life.

6 (2) Scientific research shows that how individ-
7 uals function from preschool through adolescence
8 and adulthood hinges to a significant extent on the
9 experiences children have in their first 3 years of
10 life.

11 (3) One in 3 victims of physical abuse is a baby
12 less than 1 year of age.

13 (4) In 1993 the National Educational Goals
14 Panel reported that nearly half of infants in the
15 United States do not have what they need to grow
16 and thrive.

17 (5) High-quality care from a parent or other
18 adult is necessary to facilitate growth and develop-
19 ment.

20 (6) More than 50 percent of mothers with chil-
21 dren less than 1 year of age are working outside the
22 home.

23 (7) Five million children under age 3 are in the
24 care of other adults while their parents work outside
25 the home.

1 (8) Parents of very young children have few
2 child care service options. Many cannot afford to
3 stay home with their children, or to pay for safe,
4 high-quality developmental child care services.

5 (9) Statewide and multistate studies have found
6 that less than 20 percent of child care services for
7 very young children is of good quality; nearly 50
8 percent is of such substandard quality that it ad-
9 versely affects such children's development and may
10 put their health and safety at risk.

11 (10) Families with children less than 3 years of
12 age are the single largest group living in poverty.
13 Twenty-five percent of such children, 3,000,000 chil-
14 dren, are living below the poverty line, are at greater
15 risk for malnutrition, poor health, and maltreat-
16 ment, and are less likely to receive the care they
17 need from parents or other child care service provid-
18 ers to grow and develop normally.

19 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

20 The purposes of this Act are—

21 (1) to improve the quality, and to increase the
22 availability, of child care services for children less
23 than 3 years of age,

24 (2) to improve the affordability of child care
25 services available to such children,

1 (3) to improve the quality, and to increase the
2 availability, of services to assist families to nurture
3 such children, and

4 (4) to improve the coordination and effective-
5 ness of existing programs that provide such services
6 to such children and their families.

7 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR SERVICES.**

8 (a) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**—The Secretary
9 of Health and Human Services may make grants, on a
10 competitive basis, to eligible States to improve the quality,
11 and to increase the availability, of child care services for
12 very young children and of support services for the fami-
13 lies of such children.

14 (b) **PRIORITY.**—For the purpose of making grants
15 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to
16 eligible States to the extent that such State, as dem-
17 onstrated in the application for a grant under such sub-
18 section—

19 (1) will minimize the administrative costs to be
20 incurred to carry out the plan contained in such ap-
21 plication,

22 (2) has coordinated the activities described in
23 the plan contained in such application, with provid-
24 ers of child care services for children between 3 and
25 6 years of age, and with providers of family support

1 services for families of such children, located in the
2 State,

3 (3) has taken substantial legislative or executive
4 action to reduce the duplication of, and barriers to
5 providing, such services, and

6 (4) during the fiscal year for which such grant
7 is received, will reimburse such providers for such
8 services at rates that reflect—

9 (A) the higher costs incurred by such pro-
10 viders who are accredited by national associa-
11 tion that provides accreditation for providers of
12 the respective types of such services and that is
13 recognized by the Secretary, and

14 (B) the higher costs incurred by such pro-
15 viders to provide child care services to children
16 who are very young children.

17 **SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.**

18 To be eligible to receive a grant under section 4, a
19 State shall submit to the Secretary an application that
20 satisfies the following requirements:

21 (1) Such application is prepared by the State
22 after consultation with providers of child care serv-
23 ices for very young children, and with providers of
24 family support services for families of such children,
25 located in the State.

1 (2) Such application contains a plan that de-
2 scribes how the State will expend such grant to do
3 1 or more of the following:

4 (A) To improve quality of child care serv-
5 ices.

6 (B) To improve licensing standards appli-
7 cable to providers of child care services for very
8 young children in the State by specifying mat-
9 ters that apply to providing child care services,
10 such as child-to-staff ratios, group size, staff
11 preparation and qualifications, ongoing staff
12 training, health and safety, and linkages to par-
13 ents and community services.

14 (C) To improve enforcement of licensing
15 standards applicable to providers of child care
16 services for care for very young children in the
17 State.

18 (D) To improve salaries for caregivers of
19 such child care services.

20 (E) To support ongoing and more ad-
21 vanced training for such caregivers (including
22 training to provide child care services for chil-
23 dren with special needs) and to create incen-
24 tives for individuals to obtain, and child care
25 centers to employ individuals who have ob-

1 tained, more advanced training in providing
2 child care services.

3 (F) To improve accessibility to child care
4 services for very young children, including im-
5 proving the quality of, and expanding the avail-
6 ability of, resource and referral services and
7 transportation services for families with very
8 young children.

9 (G) To improve affordability of child care
10 services for very young children.

11 (H) To improve and expand support serv-
12 ices to families with very young children.

13 (I) To improve coordination of existing
14 Federal and State programs that provide sup-
15 port services for families with very young chil-
16 dren.

17 (3) Such application shall contain assurances
18 that—

19 (i) not more than 70 percent of the cost of
20 carrying out the plan contained in such applica-
21 tion will be paid with such grant together with
22 any other available Federal funds,

23 (ii) such grant will be used to supplement,
24 not supplant, non-Federal funds otherwise
25 available to provide child care services for very

1 young children and support services for the
2 families of such children,

3 (iii) the State will expend in cash or in
4 kind, from State resources (including private
5 contributions and excluding resources available
6 to local governmental entities) an amount not
7 less than 30 percent of the amount of such
8 grant, and

9 (iv) such grant will be administered by the
10 lead agency that is designated by the State
11 under section 658D of the Child Care and De-
12 velopment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
13 9858b).

14 (4) Such application shall contain such other
15 information and assurances as the Secretary may re-
16 quire by rule.

17 **SEC. 6. MODEL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES OF**
18 **CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.**

19 The Secretary shall—

20 (1) by adapting the requirements in effect
21 under section 1792(a) of title 10, United States
22 Code, develop a voluntary model training program
23 applicable to individuals who are employed as
24 caregivers by providers of child care services,

1 (2) make available to Head Start agencies and
2 providers of child care services the model training
3 code developed under paragraph (1), and

4 (3) provide to such agencies and such providers
5 technical assistance to implement such program.

6 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For purposes of this Act:

8 (1) CAREGIVER.—The term “caregiver” means
9 an individual who provides a service directly to a
10 child on a person-to-person basis.

11 (2) FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.—The term
12 “family support services” means community-based
13 activities designed to promote parental competencies
14 and behaviors that will increase the ability of fami-
15 lies to successfully nurture their children.

16 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

18 (4) VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.—The term “very
19 young children” means children who are less than 3
20 years of age.

21 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
23 this Act \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, \$750,000,000

- 1 for fiscal year 2000, \$1,000,000,000 for each of the fiscal
- 2 years 2001, 2002, and 2003.

