

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 899

To provide funds for child care for low-income working families, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 1997

Ms. WOOLSEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide funds for child care for low-income working families, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Working Families Child Care Act of 1997”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Authorization of appropriations for child care for low-income working families and for child care supply shortages.

Sec. 4. Expenditures for child care service for low-income working families and for child care supply shortages.

Sec. 5. Report on access to child care by low-income working families.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Availability and affordability of quality child
4 care is a major obstacle for working parents who
5 struggle to remain self-sufficient.

6 (A) Compared to all other income groups,
7 the working poor are the least likely to receive
8 assistance with their child care costs.

9 (B) Low-income families spend 24 percent
10 of their household income on child care, where-
11 as middle-income families spend 6 percent of
12 their household income on child care.

13 (C) 38 States have waiting lists for child
14 care for the working poor. Among those States,
15 Georgia has 41,000 individuals on its waiting
16 list, Texas has 36,000 individuals on its waiting
17 list, and Illinois and Alabama each have 20,000
18 individuals on their waiting lists.

19 (D) One survey of low-income families on
20 a waiting list for subsidized child care found
21 that of those families paying for child care out
22 of their own funds, 71 percent faced serious
23 debt or bankruptcy.

24 (E) Half of the States and the District of
25 Columbia, even before the enactment of the
26 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity

1 Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–
2 193, 110 Stat. 2105) during the 104th Con-
3 gress, increased the proportion of child care
4 slots or dollars going to families on welfare,
5 rather than to working poor families.

6 (2) The Congressional Budget Office estimates
7 that there will be \$1,400,000,000 less expenditures
8 of child care funds for working poor families as a re-
9 sult of the States implementing the work require-
10 ments imposed under the Personal Responsibility
11 and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996
12 (Public Law 104–193, 110 Stat. 2105).

13 (3) Important types of child care are not avail-
14 able in certain States including infant care, school-
15 age care, care for children with disabilities and spe-
16 cial health care needs, and child care for parents
17 with unconventional or shifting work hours.

18 (A) A 1995 State study by the Comptroller
19 General of the United States found a shortage
20 of child care for infants and children with spe-
21 cial needs in inner cities, and a shortage of all
22 types of child care in rural areas.

23 (B) Only one-third of the schools in low-in-
24 come neighborhoods offer school-age child care,

1 compared with 52 percent of schools in more
2 affluent areas offering such care.

3 (C) Eighth-graders who are left home
4 alone for 11 or more hours a week report sig-
5 nificantly greater use of cigarettes, alcohol, and
6 marijuana than eighth-graders who are not left
7 home alone.

8 (D) Existing child care arrangements do
9 not accommodate the work schedules of many
10 working women. According to a 1995 statistic
11 published by the Department of Labor,
12 14,300,000 workers, nearly 1 in 5 full-time
13 workers work nonstandard hours, and more
14 than 1 in 3 of those workers are women.

15 (E) Only 10 percent of child care centers
16 and 6 percent of family day care providers offer
17 child care on weekends. Yet one-third of work-
18 ing mothers with annual incomes below the pov-
19 erty level and one-quarter of mothers with an-
20 nual incomes above the poverty level but below
21 \$25,000 work on weekends.

22 (F) Less than 30 percent of Head Start
23 programs operate on a full-time, full-year basis.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CHILD**
 2 **CARE FOR LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES**
 3 **AND FOR CHILD CARE SUPPLY SHORTAGES.**

4 Section 658B of the Child Care Development Block
 5 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858) is amended—

6 (1) by inserting “(excluding subparagraphs (E)
 7 and (F) of section 658E(c)(3))” after “subchapter”,

8 (2) by inserting “(a)” before “There”, and

9 (3) and by adding at the end the following:

10 “(b) There is authorized to be appropriated to pro-
 11 vide child care services under this chapter to satisfy the
 12 requirement specified in section 658E(c)(3)(E)
 13 \$1,400,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1997 through
 14 2002.

15 “(c) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry
 16 out child care activities under this chapter to satisfy the
 17 requirement specified in section 658E(c)(3)(F)
 18 \$500,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1997 through
 19 2002.”.

20 **SEC. 4. EXPENDITURES FOR CHILD SERVICES CARE FOR**
 21 **LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES AND FOR**
 22 **CHILD CARE SUPPLY SHORTAGES.**

23 (a) **REQUIRED STATE EXPENDITURES.**—Section
 24 658E(c)(3) of the Child Care Development Block Grant
 25 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(3)) is amended by add-
 26 ing at the end the following:

1 “(E) CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN LOW-IN-
2 COME WORKING FAMILIES.—A State shall en-
3 sure that 100 percent of amounts paid to the
4 State out of funds appropriated under section
5 658B(b) with respect to each of the fiscal years
6 1997 through 2002 shall be used to provide
7 child care services for families who have left the
8 State program of assistance under part A of
9 title IV of the Social Security Act because of
10 employment, families that are at risk of becom-
11 ing dependent on such assistance program, and
12 low-income working families described in section
13 subparagraph (D).

14 “(F) CHILD CARE SUPPLY SHORTAGES.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State shall en-
16 sure that 100 percent of amounts paid to
17 the State out of funds appropriated under
18 section 658B(c) with respect to each of the
19 fiscal years 1997 through 2002 shall be
20 used to carry out child care activities de-
21 scribed in clause (ii) in geographic areas
22 within the State that have a shortage, as
23 determined by the State, in consultation
24 with localities, of child care services.

1 “(ii) CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES DE-
 2 SCRIBED.—The child care activities de-
 3 scribed in this clause include the following:

4 “(I) Infant care programs.

5 “(II) Before- and after-school
 6 child care programs.

7 “(III) Resource and referral pro-
 8 grams.

9 “(IV) Nontraditional work hours
 10 child care programs.

11 “(V) Extending the hours of pre-
 12 kindergarten programs to provide full-
 13 day services.

14 “(VI) Any other child care pro-
 15 grams that the Secretary determines
 16 are appropriate.”.

17 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
 18 658E(c)(3)(A) of the Child Care Development Block
 19 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(3)(A)) is amended
 20 by striking “(D)” and inserting “(F)”.

21 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON ACCESS TO CHILD CARE BY LOW-IN-**
 22 **COME WORKING FAMILIES.**

23 (a) STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section
 24 658K(a)(2) of the Child Care Development Block Grant
 25 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858i(a)(2)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at
2 the end; and

3 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (E), the
4 following:

5 “(F) the total number of families described
6 in section 658B(b) that were eligible for but did
7 not receive assistance under this subchapter or
8 under section 418 of the Social Security Act
9 and a description of the obstacles to providing
10 such assistance; and

11 “(G) the total number of families described
12 in section 658B(b) that received assistance pro-
13 vided under this subchapter or under section
14 418 of the Social Security Act and a description
15 of the manner in which that assistance was pro-
16 vided;”.

17 (b) SECRETARIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Sec-
18 tion 658L of the Child Care Development Block Grant Act
19 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858j) is amended by inserting “, with
20 particular emphasis on access of low-income working fami-
21 lies,” after “public”.

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