

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 19

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 21, 1997

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

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. Assistance for low-income working families.
- Sec. 4. Grants for child care supply shortages.

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

Sec. 6. Effective date.

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.

1 (E) Half of the States and the District of
2 Columbia, even before the enactment of the
3 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
4 Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–
5 193, 110 Stat. 2105) during the 104th Con-
6 gress, increased the proportion of child care
7 slots or dollars going to families on welfare,
8 rather than to working poor families.

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

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

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

1 (B) Only one-third of the schools in low-in-
2 come neighborhoods offer school-age child care,
3 compared with 52 percent of schools in more
4 affluent areas offering such care.

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

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

17 (E) Only 10 percent of child care centers
18 and 6 percent of family day care providers offer
19 child care on weekends. Yet one-third of work-
20 ing mothers with annual incomes below the pov-
21 erty level and one-quarter of mothers with an-
22 nual incomes above the poverty level but below
23 \$25,000 work on weekends.

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

1 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES.**

2 Section 658B of the Child Care Development Block
3 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858) is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 **“SEC. 658B. FUNDING OF GRANTS.**

6 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Except
7 as provided in subsection (b), there is authorized to be
8 appropriated to carry out this subchapter \$2,000,000,000
9 for each of fiscal years 1997 through 2002.

10 “(b) APPROPRIATION.—The Secretary shall pay,
11 from funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
12 \$1,400,000,000 for fiscal years 1997 through 2002,
13 through the awarding of grants to States under this sub-
14 chapter for the purpose of providing child care services
15 for families who have left the State program of assistance
16 under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act because
17 of employment, families that are at risk of becoming de-
18 pendent on such assistance program, and low-income
19 working families described in section 658E(c)(3)(D).
20 Funds shall be paid under this subsection to the States
21 in the same manner, and subject to the same requirements
22 and limitations, as funds are paid to the States under sec-
23 tion 418 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 618).”.

1 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR CHILD CARE SUPPLY SHORTAGES.**

2 (a) GRANTS FOR CHILD CARE SUPPLY SHORT-
 3 AGES.—Section 658E(c)(3) of the Child Care Develop-
 4 ment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(3))
 5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(E) CHILD CARE SUPPLY SHORTAGES.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State shall en-
 8 sure that 100 percent of amounts paid to
 9 the State out of funds appropriated under
 10 section 658B(a)(2) with respect to each of
 11 the fiscal years 1997 through 2002 shall
 12 be used to carry out child care activities
 13 described in clause (ii) in geographic areas
 14 within the State that have a shortage, as
 15 determined by the State, in consultation
 16 with localities, of child care services.

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

20 “(I) Infant care programs.

21 “(II) Before- and after-school
 22 child care programs.

23 “(III) Resource and referral pro-
 24 grams.

25 “(IV) Nontraditional work hours
 26 child care programs.

1 “(V) Extending the hours of pre-
 2 kindergarten programs to provide full-
 3 day services.

4 “(VI) Any other child care pro-
 5 grams that the Secretary determines
 6 are appropriate.”.

7 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
 8 658B(a) of the Child Care Development Block Grant Act
 9 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858(a)), as amended by section 2,
 10 is amended—

11 (1) by striking “Except as provided in” and in-
 12 serting the following:

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
 14 graph (2) and”; and

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

16 “(2) CHILD CARE SUPPLY SHORTAGES.—There
 17 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section
 18 658E(c)(3)(E), \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal
 19 years 1997 through 2002.”.

20 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
 21 658(c)(3)(A) of the Child Care Development Block Grant
 22 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(3)(A)) is amended by
 23 striking “(D)” and inserting “(E)”.

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

3 (a) STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section
 4 658K(a)(2) of the Child Care Development Block Grant
 5 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858i(a)(2)) is amended—

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

8 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (E), the
 9 following:

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

16 “(G) the total number of families described
 17 in section 658B(b) that received assistance pro-
 18 vided under this subchapter or under section
 19 418 of the Social Security Act and a description
 20 of the manner in which that assistance was pro-
 21 vided;”.

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

1 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act and the amendments made by this Act take
3 effect as if included in the enactment of the Personal Re-
4 sponsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of
5 1996 (Public Law 104–193, 110 Stat. 2105).

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