

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3595

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to authorize financial assistance to permit infants to be cared for at home by parents.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 21, 2003

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. LEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to authorize financial assistance to permit infants to be cared for at home by parents.

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 “At-Home Infant Care
5 Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In the majority of American families, par-
2 ents, whether married or single, must work to pro-
3 vide economic security for their families and, not the
4 least, for the infants newly welcomed into the family.
5 Fifty-five percent of women with children less than
6 1 year of age are part of the workforce, while 73
7 percent of women with children 1 year of age or
8 older are in the workforce.

9 (2) Research shows that the quality and nature
10 of care-taking in the first months and years of life
11 are critical to a newborn's subsequent brain develop-
12 ment, social development, and well-being. Healthy
13 early development depends on nurturing and depend-
14 able relationships.

15 (3) Research also shows that there is an ex-
16 treme shortage of quality, affordable child care for
17 infants. Numerous studies document lack of infant
18 care and, in particular, affordable care that meets
19 basic health and safety standards, particularly in
20 rural areas. The current number of licensed infant
21 slots can only meet 18 percent of the potential need.
22 The shortage is even more acute in rural areas, es-
23 pecially those with a high percentage of low-wage
24 residents.

1 (4) For the well-being of American children,
2 and for the economic security of the families on
3 which they depend, working parents should be able
4 to provide this care themselves without undermining
5 family economic stability.

6 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOP-**
7 **MENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 1990.**

8 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
9 658B of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act
10 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858) is amended—

11 (1) by inserting “(other than section 658H)”
12 after “subchapter”,

13 (2) by inserting “(a) In General.—” before
14 “‘There’”, and

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

16 “(b) INFANT CARE AT HOME.—There is authorized
17 to be appropriated for each of the fiscal years 2005, 2006,
18 and 2007 such sums as may be necessary to carry out
19 section 658H.”.

20 (b) APPLICATION AND PLAN.—Section 658E(c) of
21 the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990
22 (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)(i) by inserting
2 “(other than section 658H)” after “sub-
3 chapter”, and

4 (B) in subparagraph (B) by inserting
5 “(other than section 658H)” after “sub-
6 chapter”, and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(I) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Certify
9 that the State agrees that funds appropriated
10 under section 658B for any period will be used
11 to supplement, and not to supplant, non-Fed-
12 eral funds that in the absence of funds appro-
13 priated under section 658B would be made
14 available to provide child care services and in-
15 fant care.”,

16 (2) in paragraph (3)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (B) by inserting
18 “(other than section 658H)” after “sub-
19 chapter”,

20 (B) in subparagraph (D) by inserting
21 “(other than section 658H)” after “sub-
22 chapter”, and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(E) ASSISTANCE FOR INFANT CARE AT
25 HOME.—If a State elects to receive funds ap-

1 appropriated under section 658B(b) for a fiscal
 2 year, the State plan shall provide that the State
 3 will use such funds to carry out section 658H
 4 in accordance with the applicable requirements
 5 of this subchapter.”, and

6 (3) in paragraph (5) by inserting “and, if appli-
 7 cable, by eligible parent caregivers who receive finan-
 8 cial assistance provided under section 658H” before
 9 the period at the end.

10 (c) ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CHILD
 11 CARE.—Section 658G of the Child Care and Development
 12 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858e) is amended
 13 by inserting “(other than section 658H)” after “sub-
 14 chapter”.

15 (d) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR INFANT CARE PRO-
 16 VIDED AT HOME BY PARENTS.—The Child Care and De-
 17 velopment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et
 18 seq.) is amended by inserting after section 658G the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 **“SEC. 658H. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR INFANT CARE**
 21 **PROVIDED AT HOME BY PARENTS.**

22 “(a) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.—With funds
 23 appropriated under section 658B(b) for a fiscal year, the
 24 Secretary may make grants equitably on the basis of the
 25 demonstrated need of parent caregivers for financial as-

1 sistance, to eligible States to provide financial assistance
2 to enable eligible parents to become the caregivers for eli-
3 gible infants at home.

4 “(b) ELIGIBILITY OF PARENTS.—A parent of an eli-
5 gible infant is eligible to receive financial assistance pro-
6 vided under subsection (a) by a State only if such par-
7 ent—

8 “(1) is a member of a family that does not re-
9 ceive child care services for such infant provided
10 with funds appropriated under section 658B(a) for
11 such fiscal year;

12 “(2)(A) is a member of a single-parent family
13 and—

14 “(i) worked not less than 60 hours (in the
15 aggregate); or

16 “(ii) worked not less than 40 hours (in the
17 aggregate) and attended not less than 20 hours
18 (in the aggregate) a postsecondary education or
19 training program;

20 in the 3-month period ending on the date such parent ap-
21 plies for such assistance; or

22 “(B) is a member of a 2-parent family in which
23 both parents worked 120 hours (in the aggregate) in
24 the 3-month period ending on the date such parent
25 applies for such assistance;

1 “(3)(A) is a member of a single-parent family
 2 and agrees to use such assistance to personally care
 3 for such infant at home in lieu of placing such in-
 4 fant with an eligible child care provider; or

5 “(B) is a member of a 2-parent family and—

6 “(i) such parent agrees to use such assist-
 7 ance to personally care for such infant at home
 8 in lieu of placing such infant with a child care
 9 provider; and

10 “(ii) the other parent will work for com-
 11 pensation during such period; and

12 “(4) to comply with any other requirement ap-
 13 plicable under this subchapter.

14 “(c) LIMITATION.—Financial assistance may not be
 15 provided under this section to an eligible parent for a pe-
 16 riod exceeding 24 months (in the aggregate) during the
 17 lifetime of such parent.”.

18 (e) EVALUATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Sec-
 19 tion 658L of the Child Care and Development Block
 20 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858j) is amended—

21 (1) by inserting “(a) Biennial Reports.—” be-
 22 fore “Not”, and

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

24 “(b) REPORT ON AT-HOME INFANT CARE.—Not
 25 later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of At-

1 Home Infant Care Act of 2004, the Secretary shall sub-
2 mit, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and
3 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, a report con-
4 taining a summary of an evaluation carried out by the Sec-
5 retary to determine the effectiveness of infant care pro-
6 vided under section 658H. Such evaluation shall include
7 information relating to—

8 “(1) experiences of the States in developing and
9 operating programs under section 658H, including
10 design issues and issues in coordinating infant care
11 under such section with child care services provided
12 under other provisions of this subchapter;

13 “(2) characteristics of families seeking to re-
14 ceive financial assistance, and of families receiving
15 such assistance, provided under such section;

16 “(3) the length of time families receive such as-
17 sistance under such section and the reasons families
18 cease to receive such assistance;

19 “(4) the employment patterns of families re-
20 ceive such assistance under such section and the ef-
21 fect receiving such assistance has on current or sub-
22 sequent employment; and

23 “(5) the costs and benefits of such assistance.”.

1 (f) AMOUNTS RESERVED; ALLOTMENTS.—Section
 2 658O of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act
 3 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “this sub-
 6 chapter” and inserting “section 658B(a)”, and

7 (B) in paragraph (2) by striking “658B”
 8 and inserting “658B(a)”, and

9 (2) in subsection (e)(3) by inserting “(other
 10 than section 658H)” after “subchapter”.

11 (g) DEFINITIONS.—Section 658P of the Child Care
 12 and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
 13 9858n) is amended—

14 (1) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
 15 lowing:

16 “(5A) ELIGIBLE INFANT.—The term ‘eligible
 17 infant’ means an eligible child who—

18 “(A) is less than 2 years of age; and

19 “(B) whose family income does not exceed
 20 85 percent of the State median income for a
 21 family of the same size.”, and

22 (2) in paragraph (8) by striking “658B(a)” and
 23 inserting “658D(a)”.

24 (h) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.—Section 658S of
 25 the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990

1 (42 U.S.C. 9858q) is amended by inserting “(including
2 financial assistance provided under section 658H)” after
3 “subchapter”.

4 **SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

5 Section 418(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
6 618(c)) is amended—

7 (1) by inserting “(excluding section 658H)”
8 after “such Act” the 1st place it appears, and

9 (2) by inserting “(excluding the requirements
10 and limitations applicable to assistance provided
11 under section 658H)” after “such Act” the 2d place
12 it appears.

○