

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3620

To amend the Social Security Act to enable States to carry out quality initiatives, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. PRYOR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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# A BILL

To amend the Social Security Act to enable States to carry out quality initiatives, 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.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Child Care Investment  
5       Act of 2008”.

**6 SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE.**

7       (a) MAIN PROGRAM.—Section 418 of the Social Secu-  
8       rity Act (42 U.S.C. 618) is amended—

9               (1) in subsection (a)—

10               (A) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
2 graph (A), by striking “section” and in-  
3 serting “subsection”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (G), by striking  
5 “2010.” and inserting “2008; and”; and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-

7 lowing:

8                   “(H) \$3,717,000,000 for each of fiscal  
9                   years 2009 through 2014.”; and

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) by striking all that precedes paragraph

12 (1) and inserting the following:

13                           “(6) USE OF FUNDS.—”;

14 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and  
15 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively,  
16 and aligning the margins of those subpara-  
17 graphs with the margins of section  
18 418(a)(2)(C) of that Act;

19 (C) by striking “this section” each place it  
20 appears and inserting “this subsection”; and

21 (D) by striking “subsection (a)(1)” and in-  
22 serting “paragraph (1)”.

23 (b) QUALITY INITIATIVES.—Section 418 of the Social  
24 Security Act, as amended by subsection (a), is further  
25 amended by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

1       “(b) QUALITY INITIATIVES.—

2           “(1) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts  
3       appropriated under subsection (a), there is appro-  
4       priated to carry out this subsection \$300,000,000  
5       for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

6           “(2) ALLOTMENT.—The Secretary shall use the  
7       funds appropriated under paragraph (1) to make  
8       grants to eligible States, through allotments made to  
9       those States on the basis of the formula described  
10      in subsection (a)(2)(B).

11          “(3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a  
12       grant under this subsection, a State shall submit an  
13       application to the Secretary at such time, in such  
14       manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
15       retary may require, including an assurance that the  
16       State will use the grant funds as described in para-  
17       graph (4).

18          “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a  
19       grant under this subsection shall use the grant  
20       funds to carry out 2 or more activities consisting  
21       of—

22            “(A) establishing and implementing, or  
23       maintaining, a Quality Rating and Improve-  
24       ment System for center-based child care pro-  
25       viders, group home child care providers, family

1 child care providers, and other early childhood  
2 education providers, as determined by the  
3 State, which shall—

4 “(i) include criteria appropriate for  
5 providers for each age group of the chil-  
6 dren involved, with initial and progressively  
7 higher levels that lead to standards that  
8 are consistent with nationally recognized  
9 high standards; and

10 “(ii) provides assistance for education,  
11 training, and compensation initiatives to  
12 assist child care providers in meeting the  
13 initial and progressively higher levels for  
14 the criteria;

15 “(B) establishing and supporting a state-  
16 wide network of infant and toddler specialists to  
17 provide individual or group training, and inten-  
18 sive consultation, to center-based child care pro-  
19 viders, group home child care providers, family  
20 child care providers, and relative caregivers on  
21 strategies to improve the quality of care for in-  
22 fants and toddlers, especially infants and tod-  
23 dlers in families who are eligible for federally  
24 funded child care assistance;

1                   “(C) establishing and implementing stand-  
2                   ards that require at least 40 hours of appro-  
3                   priate health, safety, and child development  
4                   training for an individual, prior to employment  
5                   with or as a licensed or registered child care  
6                   provider;

7                   “(D) establishing and implementing re-  
8                   quirements that licensed or registered center-  
9                   based child care providers, group home child  
10                   care providers, and family child care providers  
11                   are visited by monitoring staff at least twice a  
12                   year, with a minimum of 1 such visit a year on  
13                   an unannounced basis; and

14                   “(E) paying reimbursement rates, for pro-  
15                   viders of child care services for which financial  
16                   assistance is made available under the Child  
17                   Care and Development Block Grant Act of  
18                   1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), at or above the  
19                   75th percentile of market rates for such serv-  
20                   ices as determined by a current (as of the date  
21                   of the payment) market rate survey.”.

