

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 390

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to authorize a national toll-free referral line and website, to develop and disseminate child care consumer education information for parents and to help parents access child care in their community, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2013

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to authorize a national toll-free referral line and website, to develop and disseminate child care consumer education information for parents and to help parents access child care in their community, 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 and Re-
5 sources Education Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purposes of this Act are—

3 (1) to develop and disseminate child care con-
4 sumer education information for parents; and

5 (2) to assist parents in finding safe, affordable,
6 and quality child care in their community.

7 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress makes the following findings:

9 (1) Nearly 11,000,000 children under age 5 are
10 in some type of child care setting every week.

11 (2) Numerous reports have found that child
12 care is hard to find in many communities through-
13 out the United States.

14 (3) A 2010 study by the National Institute of
15 Child Health and Human Development found chil-
16 dren who received high-quality care in the first few
17 years of life scored higher on measures of academic
18 and cognitive achievement when the children were 15
19 years old, and were less likely to misbehave, than
20 children enrolled in low-quality care in those years.

21 (4) More than 1,000,000 families a year receive
22 assistance in finding child care through a national
23 child care referral line and website, with nearly half
24 the calls to the referral line coming from military
25 families, including those who are faced with deploy-
26 ment.

1 (5) The national child care referral line had
 2 57,000,000 page views by parents looking for child
 3 care in their community as well as parents looking
 4 for information about selecting a child care provider.

5 (6) Over 200,000 publications were mailed to
 6 parents last year, in both English and Spanish, by
 7 the operator of the national referral line and
 8 website, to provide consumer education to parents
 9 looking for child care.

10 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENT.**

11 Section 658O(a) of the Child Care and Development
 12 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m) is amended
 13 by adding at the end the following:

14 “(3) NATIONAL TOLL-FREE REFERRAL LINE
 15 AND WEBSITE.—The Secretary shall reserve not less
 16 than \$1,000,000 of the amount appropriated under
 17 this subchapter for each fiscal year for the operation
 18 of a national toll-free referral line and website, to
 19 develop and disseminate child care consumer edu-
 20 cation information for parents and to help parents
 21 access safe, affordable, and quality child care in
 22 their community.”.

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