

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4383

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to make projects that directly or indirectly increase the accessibility of affordable, quality child care eligible for certain grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2020

Ms. ERNST introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to make projects that directly or indirectly increase the accessibility of affordable, quality child care eligible for certain grants, 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 “Affordable Child Care
5 for Economic Strategies and Success Act” or the “AC-
6 CESS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DE-**
 2 **VELOPMENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Public Works
 4 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141)
 5 is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “and”
 8 after the semicolon at the end;

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
 10 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

12 “(3) planning, developing, or creating a project
 13 or facility that will directly or indirectly increase the
 14 accessibility of affordable, quality child care.”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”
 17 at the end;

18 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or”
 19 after the semicolon at the end; and

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

21 “(D) increase the accessibility of afford-
 22 able, quality child care;”.

23 (b) REGULATIONS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
 25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
 26 retary of Commerce, in consultation with the Sec-

retary of Health and Human Services, shall issue such regulations as are necessary to establish criteria for whether, for purposes of section 201 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141), a project directly or indirectly increases the accessibility of affordable, quality child care.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The criteria referred to in paragraph (1) shall take into consideration the following:

(A) The availability, validity, and accessibility of timely data.

(B) The extent to which a project contributes to the financial security of a family.

(C) The extent to which a project address child care needs in child care deserts or areas otherwise recognized as experiencing a child care shortage.

(3) CHILD CARE DESERT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “child care desert” means—

(A) an area—

(i) within a census tract; and

(ii) in which the number of children who are under age 5 (as determined using the most recent American Community Sur-

1 vey 1-year Estimates, as published by the
 2 Bureau of the Census) is more than 3
 3 times the number of slots provided by child
 4 care providers who are licensed or reg-
 5 istered by the applicable State; or

6 (B) a community that has a low supply of
 7 quality, affordable child care, as determined by
 8 the applicable State or Tribal entity.

9 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMIN-**
 10 **ISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

11 Section 203(b) of the Public Works and Economic
 12 Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3143(b)) is amended
 13 by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

14 “(4) formulating and implementing an economic
 15 development program that includes systematic ef-
 16 forts—

17 “(A) to reduce unemployment and increase
 18 incomes; or

19 “(B) to increase the accessibility of afford-
 20 able, quality child care.”.

21 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND TECH-**
 22 **NICAL ASSISTANCE.**

23 Section 207(a)(2) of the Public Works and Economic
 24 Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147(a)(2)) is
 25 amended—

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

3 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as sub-
 4 paragraph (J); and

5 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the fol-
 6 lowing:

7 “(I) the planning, development, or creation
 8 of a project or facility that will directly or indi-
 9 rectly increase the accessibility of affordable,
 10 quality child care; and”.

11 **SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
 12 **STRATEGIES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302(a)(3)(A) of the Pub-
 14 lic Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42
 15 U.S.C. 3162(a)(3)(A)) is amended by inserting “(includ-
 16 ing by directly or indirectly increasing the accessibility of
 17 affordable, quality child care)” after “promotes economic
 18 development and opportunity”.

19 (b) GUIDANCE.—In carrying out the amendment
 20 made by subsection (a), the Secretary of Commerce, in
 21 consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human
 22 Services, shall issue guidance on how to include the acces-
 23 sibility of affordable, quality child care in a comprehensive
 24 economic development strategy developed under section

1 302 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act
2 of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3162).

