

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM (for herself, Mr. COATS, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, and Mr. INOUYE):

S. 850. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to consolidate Federal child care programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1995

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Child Care and Development Block Grant Amendments Act of 1995 on behalf of myself, Senator COATS, Senator KENNEDY, Senator DODD, Senator INOUYE, and Senator JEFFORDS. This legislation reauthorizes the child care and development block grant of 1990 and makes several important changes to the law.

The funding and leadership that the Federal Government has provided for child care has played a critical role in assisting low-income working families to maintain stable employment and helping welfare recipients gain independence. As States try to move welfare recipients into employment, the availability of affordable, quality child care will be of even greater importance. If Congress and the States are committed to having welfare reform succeed, then there needs to be a partnership between Federal and State governments to allocate funding for quality child care.

The child care and development block grant was enacted in 1990 with bipartisan support. Congress recognized that there was a lack of adequate child care for many low-income families. This continues to be a nationwide problem.

According to a 1991 report by the Bureau of the Census, 31 million children under the age of 15 had mothers employed outside the home—almost 2 million of these children were infants under 1 year of age. This trend is continuing, with more and more mothers entering the work force each year. It has become increasingly difficult for low-income working parents to find affordable child care. Despite the significant contributions the child care and development block grant and other Federal child care programs have made in assisting families with their child care needs, there are waiting lists for child care subsidies in almost every State. If Congress does not continue to commit Federal funding for child care, these waiting lists will continue to grow, and efforts to reform the welfare system will fail.

The legislation which my colleagues and I are introducing provides States funding to provide quality child care for low-income families through a unified child care system. The Child Care and Development Block Grant Amendments Act of 1995 consolidates Federal discretionary programs that provide child care services. The primary goal of

this bill is to ensure that there is a seamless system of child care where it counts the most—at the point where the parent, child, and provider meet.

This legislation maintains most of the critical provisions of the child care and development block grant—a program that has been working successfully in the States since its enactment. The bill emphasizes access to quality child care, parental choice, and consumer education. The bill continues to minimal health and safety standards established in 1990. The 1995 amendments to the act provide States with the flexibility to improve the quality and supply of child care, to design eligibility requirements through a sliding fee scale, and to provide broader access to referral and resource services for parents and providers. Provisions in the legislation ensure that Federal funds that States use for child care will be funneled through the existing State system designed to implement the child care and development block grant. The legislation also includes several important provisions designed to improve the availability of quality child care for native American families.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Amendments Act of 1995 consolidates two discretionary programs, the State Department Care Planning and Development Grants and the Child Development Associate Credential Scholarship Program. The program is authorized for \$1 billion in 1996, and such sums as necessary through the year 2000. This authorization level is based on current funding levels for all three programs, with a slight increase for inflation.

I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join with Senator COATS, Senator JEFFORDS, Senator KENNEDY, Senator DODD, Senator INOUYE, and me in cosponsoring the Child Care and Development Block Grant Amendments Act of 1995. I hope there is as much bipartisan support for this reauthorization as there was for the original legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that additional material be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1995

SUMMARY

1. Authorization: The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is amended to include two discretionary programs, the State Dependent Care Planning and Development Grants and the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) Scholarships, into a discretionary block grant with no state match required. This is consistent with the current CCDBG structure. The authorization for fiscal year 1996 is \$1,000,000,000 and such sums as necessary through the year 2000.

II. State Requirements:

A. The health and safety standards that were included in the CCDBG when it was enacted in 1990, are maintained. These standards are broadly defined, and states are given

discretion in enforcing them. The standards are: (1) the prevention and control of infectious diseases; (2) building and physical premises safety; and (3) minimum health and safety training appropriate to the provider setting. Providers receiving funds from the block grant (via contract or parent voucher) must meet any existing state and local licensing and regulatory requirements.

B. The quality set-aside, which is part of the 1990 act, is maintained. However, it is more broadly defined and gives states discretion in how they choose to spend the money. The only required quality activity is that states must provide consumer education to encourage maximum parental choice and improve availability of child care through a comprehensive referral and resource system. The set-aside is 15 percent of the state allotment.

C. States are required to submit a plan, similar to what they currently are providing under the CCDBG, which designates a lead agency and outlines procedures that are in place for assuring parental choice of providers, parental complaints, consumer education, and compliance with state and local licensing and health and safety requirements.

D. States shall submit a report to the Secretary of HHS every 2 years specifying how they used the money, the number of children who were assisted, activities that were implemented to encourage a public-private partnership, and the extent and manner in which they implemented a resource and referral network.

E. States are required to establish a sliding fee scale that ensures a representative distribution of participation among the working poor and welfare recipients.

F. States may not expend more than 5 percent on administrative costs.

G. If states expend monies for child care from other federal funding sources, then this funding shall be allocated through the CCDBG. This will reduce federal regulations and requirements by establishing one consolidated child care program. This will also provide beneficiaries with more stability in child care since eligibility requirements will be streamlined.

III. Enforcement Mechanisms: If a state is determined (via the HHS appeals and hearing process) to have improperly expended the block grant funds, the Secretary is given the option of: (1) imposing additional requirements to ensure state compliance or correct areas of noncompliance with the act; (2) require states to repay funds improperly expended; (3) deduct from the administrative portion of the state allotment an amount less than or equal to the improperly expended funds; (4) or a combination of these options.

IV. Indian Tribes: The following provisions have been added for Indian tribes: (1) allowing tribes to use funds for facilities construction if the Secretary of HHS determines that this is a barrier to providing child care (this applies only to Indian tribes); (2) allowing any tribal allotments that are not expended to be redistributed to other tribes, which is similar to what happens with unused state allotments; and (3) exempting tribes from state licensing requirements and allowing the Secretary, in consultation with the tribes, to develop minimum standards for child care providers that takes into account tribes' needs and available resources. The set-aside for Indian tribes of up to 3 percent, which is part of the 1990 law, has been maintained.

PROGRAMS TO BE CONSOLIDATED

Child Care and Development Block Grant—discretionary grant program to help low-income parents pay for child care, to expand

early childhood development programs to improve the availability and quality of care. No state match is required. (Enacted in 1990 as part of OBRA '90)

FY 94 Actual, \$893 million.

FY 95 Enacted, \$935 million.

State Dependent Care Planning and Development Grants—discretionary grant program for child care resource and referral and for before- and after-school child care services. Provides a 75 percent federal matching rate to states.

FY 94 Actual, \$13 million.

FY 95 Enacted, \$13 million.

Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) Scholarships—discretionary grant program to states to provide scholarships to qualified child care workers to cover the cost of the CDA application, assessment, and credentialing. This credential is awarded by the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition. No state match is required.

FY 94 Actual, \$1 million.

FY 95 Enacted, \$1 million.

• Mr. COATS. Mr. President, today, I am pleased to join Senator KASSEBAUM in introducing the Child Care and Development Block Grant Amendments Act of 1995. Since its passage in 1990, this program has, and continues to enjoy strong bipartisan, community and grassroots support. With the assistance provided under this act thousands of families have, for the first time, been able to work without fearing the placement of their children in less than quality child care environments.

Currently, 55 percent of all working families enroll their children in some form of child care. The dramatic increase in labor force participation of mothers continues to heighten our awareness of the need for child services. And with the imminent passage of welfare reform, the need will undoubtedly be even greater.

The goals of a Federal child care program are many. First, to ensure a safe, healthy and stimulating environment for the children. Second, to afford parents the maximum amount of choice in the selection of a provider. Third, to assist with the availability of child care slots. Fourth, to ensure that limited Federal dollars are targeted to those most in need. And fifth, to distribute funds to States in a way that makes sense, eliminates redtape, and ensures maximum use of resources.

I believe we have met each of these goals in this legislation.

First, we continue the minimum health and safety standards negotiated in 1990. These standards are not prescriptive but they do insist that child care providers provide a safe and healthy environment for children in their care. Second, parents are able to select from a wide range of child care providers through the use of direct grants, contracts, and parent certificates. These include sectarian providers and family day care homes which currently are the largest group of providers of child care services. Third, the authorization level reflect a continued Federal priority for quality child care services. Expansion of available child care slots is important, but is equally important to maintain qual-

ity in our expansion efforts. The Kassebaum-Coats bill strikes this important balance in authorizing a 15-percent set-aside for quality improvement. Fourth, the bill targets dollars to the working poor by requiring States to establish a sliding fee scale for families up to 100 percent of the State medium income. And finally, we have included language to ensure that Federal resources used for child care are consolidated into one, uniform system.

This last point is significant. In recent years, growing concern has been expressed about the number of Federal child care programs. The General Accounting Office reports there are currently 93 different child care programs administered by 11 Federal agencies and 20 offices, at a total cost to the taxpayer of at least \$11.5 billion, and that does not include various tax programs targeted at families with children.

The Kassebaum-Coats bill ensures that those dollars will be used in a way that meets the goals of our Federal child care policy and not in ways that contravene it.

In addressing child care within the context of the welfare reform debate we must be careful not to force parents to choose between work, and quality day care. Many families, especially low-income working families, need help with their child care needs. Solutions and welfare reform must be pursued with compassionate realism, recognizing our budgetary limitations, but motivated by a concern for children and their best interests. The Kassebaum-Coats bill, coupled with the block grant and cash assistance program will significantly help those entering the work force with their child care needs—and does so in a way that is fiscally responsible.

I would again like to thank Senator KASSEBAUM for her leadership in this area, and hope that this legislation receives swift approval in the Senate.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 256

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM] and the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS] were added as cosponsors of S. 256, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish procedures for determining the status of certain missing members of the Armed Forces and certain civilians, and for other purposes.

S. 388

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to eliminate the penalties for noncompliance by States with a program requiring the use of motorcycle helmets, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia [Mr.

WARNER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to provide for the payment to States of plot allowances for certain veterans eligible for burial in a national cemetery who are buried in cemeteries of such States.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. HATFIELD, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide that certain voluntary disclosures of violations of Federal laws made pursuant to an environmental audit shall not be subject to discovery or admitted into evidence during a Federal judicial or administrative proceeding, and for other purposes.

S. 585

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE], the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM], the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST], and the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] were added as cosponsors of S. 585, a bill to protect the rights of small entities subject to investigative or enforcement action by agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 758

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 758, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for S corporation reform, and for other purposes.

S. 770

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Maine [Ms. SNOWE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 770, a bill to provide for the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and for other purposes.

S. 794

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 794, a bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to facilitate the minor use of a pesticide, and for other purposes.

S. 814

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 814, a bill to provide for the reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 816

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 816, a bill to provide equal protection for victims of crime, to facilitate the exchange of information between Federal and State law enforcement and investigation entities, to reform criminal procedure, and for other purposes.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN], and the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM] were added as