

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3620

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

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

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 subpara-
2 graph (A), by striking “section” and in-
3 sserting “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 sserting “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.”.

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