

112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2135

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to authorize a national toll-free hotline 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.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28, 2012

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

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## A BILL

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to authorize a national toll-free hotline 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 2012”.

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 hotline and website, with nearly half the  
24 calls to the hotline coming from military families  
25 who are faced with deployment and need to find  
26 child care in their new community.

1           (5) The national child care hotline 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 hotline and website, to  
8           provide consumer education to parents looking for  
9           child care.

10 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENT.**

11           Section 6580(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 HOTLINE AND  
15 WEBSITE.—The Secretary shall reserve not less than  
16 \$1,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this  
17 subchapter for each fiscal year for the operation of  
18 a national toll-free hotline and website, to develop  
19 and disseminate child care consumer education in-  
20 formation for parents and to help parents access  
21 safe, affordable, and quality child care in their com-  
22 munity.”.

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