

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 834

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to ensure access to high-quality child care for homeless children and families, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2013

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN) 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 ensure access to high-quality child care for homeless children and families, 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 “Improving Access to
5 Child Care for Homeless Families Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

1 (1) Homelessness among children and youth in
2 public schools has increased by 57 percent during
3 the period since 2006.

4 (2) Among homeless children living in shelters
5 supported by the Department of Housing and Urban
6 Development, 50 percent are under 5 years old.

7 (3) A 2010 study by the Eunice Kennedy Shriv-
8 er National Institute of Child Health and Human
9 Development found that children who had received
10 high-quality care in the first few years of life scored
11 higher on measures of academic and cognitive
12 achievement when the children were 19 years old,
13 and were less likely to misbehave, than children who
14 had been enrolled in low-quality care in those years.

15 (4) Homelessness has a negative impact on
16 child development that surpasses the harmful im-
17 pacts of poverty. A Head Start demonstration
18 project serving homeless families indicated that the
19 homeless children served had more instances of de-
20 velopmental delay, learning disabilities, and physical
21 or mental health problems, compared with their low-
22 income peers in stable housing.

23 (5) For homeless families, residential insta-
24 bility, high mobility, documentation requirements,

1 and lack of transportation are significant obstacles
2 to accessing and retaining child care services.

3 (6) According to a study by the Institute for
4 Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, homeless fam-
5 ilies are less likely to receive government financial
6 assistance for child care than families that are not
7 homeless.

8 (7) Without child care, homeless parents of
9 young children struggle to search for employment,
10 maintain employment, and enter job training pro-
11 grams.

12 (8) Many parents who are domestic violence
13 survivors who flee their homes try to find employ-
14 ment, but the parents are often limited by a lack of
15 child care. In a survey of nearly 1,500 domestic vio-
16 lence survivors in domestic violence shelters, 29 per-
17 cent indicated that they needed help with child care.

18 (9) In school year 2006–2007 there were
19 22,650 homeless families served by Head Start pro-
20 grams, and in school year 2011–2012 there were
21 49,164 homeless families served by Head Start pro-
22 grams. The number of homeless families being
23 served by Head Start programs has more than dou-
24 bled in the past 5 years

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that—

3 (1)(A) Congress has enacted successful policies
4 to increase homeless children’s access to and sta-
5 bility in public elementary and secondary schools
6 and Head Start programs; and

7 (B) in order to increase homeless families’ ac-
8 cess to and continuity in child care, similar policies
9 should be applied to Federal child care programs;
10 and

11 (2) such policies will assist homeless parents in
12 maintaining employment and regaining housing, and
13 will provide critical interventions to support that vul-
14 nerable population of children.

15 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

16 The purpose of this Act is to ensure access to high-
17 quality child care for homeless children and families.

18 **SEC. 4. CHILD CARE FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN.**

19 (a) LEAD AGENCY DUTIES.—Section 658D(b)(1)(D)
20 of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of
21 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858b(b)(1)(D)) is amended by striking
22 “Federal, State and local child care and early childhood
23 development programs.” and inserting “Federal, State,
24 and local child care, early childhood development, and so-
25 cial service programs that shall include—

1 “(1) Head Start and Early Head Start pro-
2 grams under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831
3 et seq.);

4 “(2) programs, and services of partners, that
5 serve vulnerable populations, including programs
6 serving homeless children and services of local edu-
7 cational agency liaisons for homeless children and
8 youths designated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii) of
9 section 722 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-
10 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432); and

11 “(3) programs, and services of entities receiving
12 grants, to provide to homeless veterans services au-
13 thorized under chapter 20 of title 38, United States
14 Code, consisting of housing, employment-related
15 services (such as services under section 2021 or
16 2021A of such title), or supportive services (such as
17 services authorized under section 2044 of such
18 title).”.

19 (b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Section 658E(e) of the
20 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42
21 U.S.C. 9858c(e)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (2)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “,
24 Head Start and Early Head Start agencies
25 under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et

1 seq.), State Coordinators designated under sub-
2 section (d)(3), and local educational agency liai-
3 sons for homeless children and youths des-
4 ignated under subsection (g)(1)(J)(ii), of sec-
5 tion 722 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless As-
6 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432), local edu-
7 cational agencies and providers of early inter-
8 vention services under the Individuals with Dis-
9 abilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et
10 seq.),” after “children”;

11 (B) in subparagraph (F)(i), by striking the
12 semicolon and inserting “and the establishment
13 of a grace period that allows homeless children
14 to receive services under this subchapter while
15 their families are taking any necessary action to
16 comply with immunization and other health and
17 safety requirements;”; and

18 (C) in subparagraph (H)—

19 (i) by striking “and families” and in-
20 sserting “families”; and

21 (ii) by inserting “, and families of
22 homeless children” before the period;

23 (2) in paragraph (3)(B)—

24 (A) by inserting “activities that improve
25 access to such services (including transportation

1 to child care services, procedures to permit im-
2 mediate enrollment of homeless children while
3 required documentation is obtained, training
4 and technical assistance on identifying and
5 serving homeless children and their families,
6 and specific outreach to families described in
7 paragraph (2)(H)),” after “availability of such
8 services,”; and

9 (B) by inserting “, to homeless children,”
10 after “family size”); and

11 (3) in paragraph (5), by adding at the end the
12 following: “Each sliding fee scale shall be applied
13 using measures to ensure that cost sharing is not a
14 barrier to the enrollment of families of homeless
15 children.”.

16 (c) ACCESS AND OUTREACH TO FAMILIES OF HOME-
17 LESS CHILDREN.—Section 658G of the Child Care and
18 Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858e)
19 is amended—

20 (1) by inserting “(such as resource and referral
21 services)” after “and activities”; and

22 (2) by striking “(such as resource and referral
23 services).” and inserting “, including developing
24 strategies and partnerships to provide transportation
25 to child care services and specific outreach to fami-

1 lies described in section 658E(c)(2)(H)).” after
 2 “availability of child care”.

3 (d) REPORTS.—Section 658K(a)(1)(B) of the Child
 4 Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42
 5 U.S.C. 9858i(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

6 (1) in clause (ix), by striking “and” at the end;

7 (2) in clause (x), by adding “and” at the end;

8 and

9 (3) by inserting after clause (x) the following:

10 “(xi) whether the children receiving
 11 assistance under this subchapter are home-
 12 less children;”.

13 **SEC. 5. PILOT PROGRAM.**

14 (a) REDESIGNATION.—Section 658L of the Child
 15 Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42
 16 U.S.C. 9858j) is amended—

17 (1) by striking the section heading;

18 (2) by inserting “(c) REPORT BY SEC-
 19 RETARY.—” before “Not later”;

20 (3) by striking “section 658K” and inserting
 21 “this section”; and

22 (4) by moving subsection (c) (as redesignated
 23 by paragraph (2)) to the end of section 658K.

24 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Child Care
 25 and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.

1 9858 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 658K
 2 (42 U.S.C. 9858i), as amended by subsection (a), the fol-
 3 lowing:

4 **“SEC. 658L. PILOT PROGRAM.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a
 6 pilot program to identify and implement best practices for
 7 increasing access to and continuity of child care for home-
 8 less children.

9 “(b) GRANTS.—In carrying out the pilot program,
 10 the Secretary shall award to States not more than 5
 11 grants of not more than \$5,000,000 per grant. Each grant
 12 shall be for a period of not more than 3 years, beginning
 13 not later than March 31, 2014.

14 “(c) APPLICATION.—In order to be eligible to receive
 15 a grant under this section, a State shall submit an applica-
 16 tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
 17 containing such information as the Secretary shall require.

18 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a grant
 19 under this section shall use the funds made available
 20 under the grant—

21 “(1) to establish a pilot project for—

22 “(A) implementing promising practices for
 23 increasing access to and continuity of child care
 24 for homeless children; and

25 “(B) identifying the best practices; and

1 “(2) to carry out subsection (e)(1).

2 “(e) ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.—

3 “(1) STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—

4 “(A) ASSESSMENT.—A State that receives
5 a grant under this section shall carry out data
6 collection for and an assessment of its pilot
7 project described in subsection (d)(1).

8 “(B) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Not
9 later than 42 months after the first day of the
10 grant period for a pilot project described in
11 subsection (d)(1), the State carrying out the
12 pilot project shall submit to the Secretary a re-
13 port containing a summary of the results of the
14 assessment described in subparagraph (A), in-
15 cluding a description of the best practices iden-
16 tified.

17 “(2) SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—Not
18 later than 4 years after the first day of the latest
19 grant period for a pilot project, the Secretary shall
20 submit to Congress a report containing a summary
21 of the reports received under paragraph (1) and a
22 recommendation concerning whether and how to ex-
23 pand the pilot projects carried out with best prac-
24 tices.

1 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 3 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
 4 2014 through 2016, which shall remain available through
 5 fiscal year 2018.”.

6 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 658P of the Child Care and Development
 8 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (4)(C)—

10 (A) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the
 11 end;

12 (B) in clause (ii), by striking the period
 13 and inserting “; or”; and

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

15 “(iii) is a homeless child.”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(15) HOMELESS CHILD.—The term ‘homeless
 18 child’ means a homeless child or youth, as defined
 19 under section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless
 20 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).”.

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