S. 3544

To authorize funding for section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

February 1, 2022

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MURPHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To authorize funding for section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Funding Early Childhood is the Right IDEA Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) High-quality early intervention and preschool special education services can change a child’s
developmental trajectory and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.

(2) Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) authorizes a grant program to aid each State in implementing a system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

(3) Funding for such part C (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) has eroded significantly in the last two decades, from a high of $1,768 per child in 1999 to $645 per child in 2017, adjusted for inflation.

(4) Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419) authorizes grants to States for preschool programs serving children with disabilities ages three to five.

(5) Funding for such section 619 (20 U.S.C. 1419) has eroded significantly in the last 25 years, from a high of $1,484 per child in 1992, to $529 in 2017, adjusted for inflation.

(6) Infants, toddlers, and preschool children, and their schools would benefit from additional funding to restore per child amounts under part C and section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.; 1419) to en-
sure continued delivery of high-quality early inter-
vention and preschool special education services.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR SEC-
TION 619 OF THE IDEA.

Section 619(j) of the Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419(j)) is amended to read
as follows:

“(j) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
tion—

“(1) $502,600,000 for fiscal year 2023;
“(2) $683,500,000 for fiscal year 2024;
“(3) $829,700,000 for fiscal year 2025;
“(4) $975,900,000 for fiscal year 2026; and
“(5) $1,220,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.”.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR PART C
OF THE IDEA.

Section 644 of the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-
cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1444) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 644. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“For the purpose of carrying out this part, there are
authorized to be appropriated—

“(1) $731,900,000 for fiscal year 2023;
“(2) $974,800,000 for fiscal year 2024;
“(3) $1,227,400,000 for fiscal year 2025;
“(4) $1,480,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and

“(5) $1,731,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.”.