

LET US GIVE OUR KIDS A HEAD START ON LIFE

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week I joined with several of my colleagues in attending a White House Conference on Early Childhood Development. This conference focused on new scientific research that confirms what many parents have suspected for a long time: that the first few years of a child's life are critical, absolutely critical to that child's intellectual, emotional, and social development.

Last week I joined with the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] and the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. HOYER] in introducing H.R. 1373, the Early Learning and Opportunity Act. One key component of our bill is increased Federal funding for the Head Start and Early Start programs, two true success stories in the effort to prepare our children for a lifetime of education.

I have taken to this well many times to speak of my support for improving the scope and quality of American education. But we must never forget that a child starts learning long before they enter their first classroom. If one believes, as I do, that education is truly the key to our Nation's economic future, we must begin early. The DeLauro-Hoyer-McGovern bill takes a solid first step in ensuring that our Nation's children can learn, share, and mature to their fullest potential.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following material for the RECORD that contains some additional facts regarding early childhood development.

THE EARLY LEARNING AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Original cosponsors: DeLauro, Hoyer,
McGovern)

FINDINGS

The first three years of life are a critical period of brain development, intellectual growth, and emotional, social, affective, and moral development, which prepares a child for later life.

Scientific research shows that how individuals function from preschool through adolescence and adulthood hinges to a significant extent on the experiences children have in their first three years.

One in three victims of physical abuse is under one year old.

The National Educational Goals Panel has reported that nearly half of infants do not have what they need to grow and thrive.

High quality care from a parent or other adult is necessary to facilitate growth and development before the age of three.

More than half of mothers with babies under one year of age are working outside the home.

More than 50% of working women are not covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, which provides a twelve week, unpaid maternity leave.

The United States is the only industrialized country in the world which does not provide paid maternity leave. 30 developing countries provide paid maternity leave.

5 million children under age three are in the care of other adults while their parents work outside the home.

According to the Carnegie Foundation "Starting Points" report, most parents of babies have few child care options. Many cannot afford to stay home with their children, or to pay for safe, high quality developmental child care.

State-wide and multi-state studies have found that less than 20% of child care for babies is of good quality; nearly half is so substandard that it adversely affects infant and toddler development and may put babies' health and safety at risk.

Families with children under the age of three are the single largest group living in poverty. 25% of children under the age of three—3 million children—are living below the poverty line, and are at greater risk for malnutrition, poor health, and maltreatment, and are less likely to receive the care they need from parents or other child care providers to grow and develop normally.

EARLY LEARNING AND OPPORTUNITY ACT STATUS OF AMERICAN INFANTS AND TODDLERS FACT SHEET

Poor developmental outcomes early in life have been shown to be significant risk factors for academic failure, teen pregnancy, and juvenile delinquency later in life.

In 1993, the National Educational Goals Panel reported that nearly half of infants in the United States do not have what they need to grow and thrive.

According to the Carnegie Foundation "Turning Points" report, most parents today have few choices for infant and toddler care. Even middle class parents cannot afford to stay at home with their children, and yet cannot afford high quality child care which will promote normal development.

Fewer than half of America's working women are covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, which provides a 12-week, unpaid leave to parents of companies which employ more than 50 employees.

The United States is the only industrialized country in the world which does not provide paid maternity leave.

Thirty developing countries provide paid maternity leave.

More than half of mothers with babies under one year of age are working outside the home.

More than 5 million American children under age 3 are in the care of other adults while their parents work outside the home.

Studies of care for very young children show that less than 20 percent of such care is of good quality.

One multistate study showed that 40 percent of child care for babies was so poor that it adversely affected the babies' development and threatened their health and safety.

One in three victims of physical abuse is a baby less than one year of age.

Families with children under age 3 are the single largest group living in poverty.

Three million children—25% of all children under age 3—are living below the poverty line, at greater risk for malnutrition, poor health, and maltreatment, and are less likely to receive the care they need from parents or other child care providers to grow and develop normally.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET REGARDING CURRENT LEVELS OF SPENDING AND REVENUES REFLECTING AC- TION COMPLETED AS OF MARCH 25, 1997 FOR FISCAL YEARS 1997- 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on the Budget and pursuant to sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am submitting for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an updated report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 1997 and for the 5-year period fiscal year 1997 through fiscal year 2001.

This report is to be used in applying the fiscal year 1997 budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 178), for legislation having spending or revenue effects in fiscal years 1997-2001.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, April 11, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: To facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 1997 and for the 5-year period fiscal year 1997 through fiscal year 2001.

The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature as of February 28, 1997.

The first table in the report compares the current level of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the aggregate levels set by H. Con. Res. 178, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997 as adjusted pursuant to 606(e) of the Budget Act for continuing disability reviews. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 1997 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority, outlays, and new entitlement authority of each direct spending committee with the "section 602(a)" allocations for discretionary action made under H. Con. Res. 178 for fiscal year 1997 and for fiscal years 1997 through 2001. "Discretionary action" refers to legislation enacted after adoption of the budget resolution. This comparison is needed to implement section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 602(a) discretionary action allocation of new budget authority or entitlement authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).