Child care - legislation

Bruce -
FYI. Look familiar?
We're doing a supportive statement. Elena

C care - legislation

The Investment in Children Act

Introduced by Congresswoman Barbara B. Kennelly

1. Increases the Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC)

Increases DCTC to cover 50% of child care expenses for those earning less than $30,000 a year. Reduces credit by 1% for every $1000 in income above $30,000 until the credit reaches 20% for those earning $60,000 and higher. Same cap on allowable expenses as current law. (The bill also prevents the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) from reducing this and other non-refundable tax credits.)

2. Provides Expanded Child Tax Credit for Stay-at-Home Parents

Allows families with children under the age of 4 who do not receive the Dependent Care Tax Credit to file for an expanded Child Tax Credit. This credit would be equivalent to the current $500 Child Tax Credit plus an additional amount equal to the average *increase* in tax relief provided to two-worker families with a young child through the expansion of the DCTC.

3. Establishes Tax Credit for Businesses Offering Child Care

Provides 25% credit for child care expenditures up to $150,000. The credit would be available to businesses for the following expenses: building or expanding on-site child care facilities; operating existing on-site child care facilities; or contracting with a licensed child care facility.

4. Expands the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) for Low-Income Working Families

Increases CCDBG funding by $8 billion over 5 years. These new mandatory funds would seamlessly augment current CCDBG funding with three exceptions. First, states would have to draw down their current CCDBG allocation before accessing these new funds. Second, the new funds would only require a 20% state match. And third, at least 70 percent of the new funding must be used for child care assistance to working, low-income families who are not on welfare.

5. Improves Child Care Quality and Safety

Invests $3 billion over the next five years through the CCDBG to improve the quality and safety of child care. States could use these funds to reduce staff-to-child ratios, improve and expand child care training, strengthen enforcement of state health and safety requirements (including increasing unannounced inspections of child care settings), increase compensation for child care providers and other initiatives to improve child care. Funds from this title would be distributed to states in the same manner as the current CCDBG, except state match would be lowered to 20%.

6. Expands After-School Programs

Invests $3 billion over the next five years to expand after-school programs through the CCDBG (with 20% state match); plus an additional $1 billion through the Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center Program.

Missing 3 pages from Conrad.

Conrad Bill

(2) promote images or activities to discourage individuals from using tobacco products or encourage individuals who use such products to quit.

(e) ALLOCATION OF UNEXPENDED FUNDS.—Amounts available for purposes of carrying out this section and remaining available at the end of the 10-year period following the date of the establishment of the program under this section, shall be used as follows:

(1) 50 percent of such amounts shall be used to supplement amounts available for multi-media campaigns under section 621;

(2) 25 percent of such amounts shall be used to supplement amounts available for Federal or State tobacco product enforcement purposes; and

(3) 25 percent of such amounts shall be used to supplement amounts available for community-based programs under this subtitle or subtitle B.

(f) FUNDING.—There shall be made available to carry out this section an amount equal to 1 percent of the amounts made available under section 101(d)(5)(C) for a fiscal year.

(g) SUNSET.—The program established under this section shall terminate on the date that is 10-years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 626. PROGRAMS TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUG USE BY MINORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program under which grants are awarded to States to augment funding for existing programs that are designed to reduce alcohol and illicit drug use by individuals under 18 years of age and that have been proven effective.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section a State shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a State plan (that is subject to approval by the Secretary) that describes—

(1) the types of programs that the State will fund under the grant;

(2) the manner in which the State will ensure that the programs will be age-appropriate;

(3) the manner in which the State will monitor the effectiveness of such programs; and

(4) the manner in which the State program will be targeted at populations that are most at risk to use alcohol or illicit drugs.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received by a State under this section shall be used to expand and enhance existing programs to discourage the use of alcohol and illicit drugs and to encourage those who use such products to quit such use.

(d) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section a State shall provide assurances to the Secretary that—

(1) the State will annually report to the Secretary on the effectiveness of the programs implemented by the State;

(2) adequate records will be maintained with respect to such assistance; and

(3) amounts provided to the individual or entity will be subject to independent audit.

(e) FUNDING.—There shall be made available to carry out this section an amount equal to 5 percent of the amounts made available under section 101(d)(5)(C) for a fiscal year.

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C care - legis.

7-18-97

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1997, S. 756

This bill was introduced by Senators Kerry (D-MA), Rockefeller (D-WV), Murray (D-WA), Kennedy (D-MA), Hollings (D-SC), Wellstone (D-MN), Moseley-Braun (D-IL), and Harkin (D-IA).

Purpose:

To provide funds to empower local communities to provide successful early interventions for at-risk young children and their families; to increase child care subsidies; to provide a loan forgiveness fund in early child development; to provide full funding for WIC; to increase Head Start; and to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to allow parents to take up to 24 hours of leave during a 12 month period to participate in school activities.

Summary:

Title I- Assistance for Young Children

States can receive funds to provide supportive services to young children (birth through 6) and their parents. These funds are for working poor families who have incomes below 133 percent of the poverty line. The bill requires substantial community planning and participation. It also requires a strong commitment from the Governor. These funds are to "supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, and local public funds." States can apply for allotments determined by a formula based on the number of young children in poverty in the State. The bill will appropriate the following for Assistance for Young Children:

- $1 billion for FY 1998
- $1 billion for FY 1999
- $2 billion for FY 2000
- $3 billion for FY 2001
- $4 billion for FY 2002

The Federal share will cover between 85% and 90% of the cost of services to children and families. The Federal share will be based on the percentage of federal medical assistance the state receives. The State must match the remainder of costs in cash from state, local, or private sources.

States Interested in Applying for Funds

The Governor must establish or designate an entity to serve as a *State Early Learning Coordinating Board* to be eligible to apply for funds. This board is critical because it is responsible for making grants to local collaboratives. The new board or designated board should include the

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Governor and appointed members including:

- representatives of State agencies;
- representatives of businesses in the state;
- CEOs of political subdivisions in the State;
- parents of young children;
- officers of community organizations serving low-income individuals;
- representatives of State nonprofit organizations that represent the interests of young children in poverty; and
- representatives of organizations providing services to young children including child care Head Start, family support, home visits, or heath care.

Annually, the State board must submit an application for funds which includes information required by the Secretary including: 1. information about the State board; 2. a comprehensive State plan for carrying out young child assistance activities; 3. an assurance to provide information on the amount of State and local public funds expended to provide services to young children and assurance to report on the results of local grant making.

GRANTS TO LOCAL COLLABORATIVES

States must develop a competitive process for awarding grants to local collaboratives. The **Local Collaborative** should include: all local public agencies that have a primary role in providing services to young children in the community; local businesses; representatives of the local government; parents of young children; officers of community organizations serving low-income individuals; community-based organizations providing services to young children such as pre-kindergarten, Head Start, or family support; and nonprofit organizations serving the community. Local Collaboratives must demonstrate the capacity to provide young child assistance activities to young children and their parents in the community.

Young Child assistance activities may include:

- home visits for parents of young children;
- community based family resource center for parents of young children;
- drug treatment centers for parents of young children;

•collaborative efforts linking parenting education with high quality early childhood learning services; and

•health care services such as immunization, preventive health care screens, clinics in public housing, expanded health care in schools and child care centers, and mobile dental and vision clinics;

•activities to strengthen the quality of child care for young children and expand the supply of high quality care;

•services for young children with disabilities; and

•activities to assist schools in providing support to young children and parents to be carried out during extended hours when appropriate.

All local collaboratives must submit an application that includes a description of the local collaborative members and a comprehensive plan to carry out activities. The plan should describe the current young child assistance activities in the community and unmet needs. At least 3/4 of the funds must be used to provide activities to young children and parents who are in **families with incomes below 133 % of the poverty line**. The collaborative must describe how they will coordinate the activities and meet the reporting requirements of the State. The local collaborative must contribute a percentage of the match using cash through donation from private entities. The State board is responsible for monitoring the activities of the local collaborative.

- **Recommended Addition:**
  - This bill does not go far enough in requiring inclusion. There should be stronger language to ensure that the State Early Learning Coordinating Board as well as local collaboratives are representative of the various communities (urban/rural/suburban) as well as ethnic and racial groups. Involvement of all groups that have an interest in services to children is critical if the local grants are to truly meet community needs.

Title II- Child Care for Families

AMENDMENTS TO THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CCDBG) OF 1990

This bill calls for the establishment of a ZERO to SIX program. This funding would supplement current CCDBG funding. States would be provided with grants to develop child care assistance for children under 6 who have working parents (at least one parent working, in school, or training) and have a family income that is less than 85% of the State median income. States would be required to set-aside 10% of their funding under this grant for the creation of a program to establish new models of infant and toddler care including: models for the development of family child care networks; training child care providers for infant and toddler care; securing higher levels of compensation for infant and toddler care providers; and supporting renovation, and modernization of facilities for infant and toddlers care. States will be required to provide full assistance to these families with incomes less than 100 percent of the poverty line. The State would apply for funds as part of the State plan for CCDBG and would describe the activities planned and the level of assistance they will provide to families.

The Secretary will be responsible for establishing regulations to ensure that States are providing adequate assistance to parents at minimum market rates and encourage States to provide additional assistance on behalf of infants and toddlers.

The appropriation for this title will be:

- $500 million in FY 1998
- $1 billion in FY 1999
- $2 billion in FY 2000
- $3 billion in FY 2001
- $4 billion in FY 2002 and each fiscal year thereafter.

- **Recommended Addition:**
  - The Early Childhood Development Act emphasizes care for children under six. However, it is silent on care for school-age children, children ages 6-12. These children need high quality, affordable child care settings also. This bill will not meet its goals of prevention of adolescent crime and violence if families with school-aged children cannot locate reliable, affordable care for their "young children". This bill should be expanded, the language and funding levels, to include subsidies and services for school age children also.

<u>Title III-Loan Repayment for Child Care Workers</u>

This title provides a loan forgiveness fund for individuals who earn an associate, bachelor, or master's degree in an early childhood development. These individuals must spend at least two years working in programs that primarily serve low-income infants and toddlers. This title would be funded at $100 million for FY 1998 and each succeeding fiscal year. This program amends the Higher Education Act.

<u>Title IV- Full Funding for the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)</u>

This title amends the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. It provides full funding for the WIC program. For FY 1997 current funding will be increased by $1.5 billion. In subsequent years it will be $1.5 billion plus appropriate Consumer Price Index increases.

Title V- Amendments to the Head Start Act

This title would amend the Head Start Act by increasing the funding and extending the appropriations until FY 2002. Currently the Head Start Act is due to be reauthorized in FY 1998. This bill would authorize funding at $4.9 billion in FY 1999, $5.5 billion in FY 2000 and $6.1 billion for FY 2001, and $6.7 billion for FY 2002. This bill also increases the funding for Early Head Start which provides services to pregnant women, infants and toddlers.

Title VI- School Involvement Leave

This title amends the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to allow parents to take up to 24 hours of leave during a 12 month period to participate in school activities. This may include parent-teacher conferences, school interviews, or family literacy programs. Schools are defined as elementary or secondary schools, Head Start programs or child care facilities meeting state or local licensing or standards. *

July 17,1997

KEY FEATURES OF SELECTED CHILD CARE LEGISLATION

Child care - legislation

	Dodd (S.19)	Kerry (S.756)	DeLauro (H.R. 1373)	Kohl (S.82)	Pryce (H.R. 988)
Basic structure	Raises CCDBG funding to increase child care subsidies and provide grants to states to respond to child care supply shortages. Directs states and the Secretary of HHS to include discussions of access to child care by low-income working families in their annual reports on child care activities.	Provides grants to states to provide supportive services to children and their families; increases CCDBG funding. Also provides a loan forgiveness fund in early child development; full funding for WIC; increases Head Start funding through 2002; and amends the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to allow parents to take up to 24 hours of leave during a 12 mo. period to participate in school activities.	Provides grants to states to expand the quality and availability of child care services for children under 3 and support services for their families. Amends the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to cover employers with more than 20 employees and increases Head Start funding.	Provides a 50% tax credit for up to $150,000/ yr. to employers who construct or operate an on- or near-site child care facility, contract with child care centers or resource and referral agencies to provide services to employees.	Provides a 50% tax credit to employers for building or operating an on- or near-site child care facility for employers.
Competition among states to receive grant	No	No	Yes	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

Bruce - FYI Elena

Family - child care - legislation

	Dodd (S.19)	Kerry (S.756)	DeLauro (H.R. 1373)	Kohl (S.82)	Pryce (H.R. 988)
Funding amounts	Adds $1 billion/yr in child care subsidies, $500 million/yr to meet child care supply shortages, and $1.4 billion in child care assistance through FY 2002. **Total added through FY 2002: $8.9 billion**	Adds $11 billion to support state and local early childhood initiatives; $10.5 billion to expand CCDBG services, $500 million in loan forgiveness program, $7.5 billion, plus appropriate Consumer Price Index increases, for WIC; and approximately $2.4 billion for Head Start through FY 2002. ***Total added through FY 2002: $31.9 billion**	Adds $360 million/yr over 5 years for grants to states to expand child care services; increases Head Start funding by $600 million/yr from FY 1999 through 2002. ***Total added through FY 2002: $4.2 billion**	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Child care activities specified	Expands child care subsidies and availability of services, including infant care, before- and after-school care, nontraditional work hour care, full-day pre-kindergarten and resource and referral.	Expands local supportive services for children age 6 and under, adds zero to six program to CCDBG to improve access and quality of infant and toddler care, increases child care subsidies for children under 6.	Improves quality and affordability of child care services. Improves accessibility of child care, resource and referral, and transportation services.	Encourages employers to operate on- or near-site child care centers, contract with child care centers or resource and referral agencies to provide services to employees.	Encourages employers to operate on- or near-site child care centers.

	Dodd (S.19)	Kerry (S.756)	DeLauro (H.R. 1373)	Kohl (S.82)	Pryce (H.R. 988)
Families served	Families leaving welfare for work, families at risk of becoming welfare dependent, certain low-income, working families.	Families leaving welfare for work and working poor families with children age 6 or under, and pregnant women.	Families with children under 3 years, employees of businesses with more than 20 employees.	Primarily employees of participating businesses. Businesses have the flexibility to include the children of non-employees in child care centers they build or operate.	Employees of participating businesses.
Broad accessability to low-income families	Yes	Yes	Yes	**No	**No
Quality improvements specified	No	Allows renovation of infant and toddler facilities, supports training and education for infant and toddler caregivers, and supports higher compensation for infant and toddler care.	Improves the quality of licensing standards (including health and safety, child-staff ratios, etc.), enforcement of licensing standards, staff training and resource and referral services. Also increases salaries for providers and directs the Secretary of HHS to develop a voluntary model training program for child care staff.	Qualified expenditures to employers include costs related to the training of child care staff, scholarship programs, and providing increased compensation to caregivers with advanced training.	No
School-age care provided	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Family support services provided	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
State match required	No	10%-15%	30%	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

* The estimated total assumes Head Start is reauthorized at $4.3 billion for FY 1998.

** S.82 and H.R. 988 would provide limited accessibility to low-income families and families leaving welfare for work because it would only benefit employees that work for businesses profitable enough to increase the supply of child care. This would exclude a large proportion of families moving from welfare to work, who traditionally hold low-paying and unstable jobs. Nearly 60% of the women who leave welfare for work, return to welfare (Harris 1996; Pavetti 1993). This means that employer-provided child care services would have a limited impact on helping these families. However, this is not to imply that bills such as S. 82 and H.R. 988, that would serve primarily middle class families, are not needed.

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7-18-97

EARLY LEARNING AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1997, H.R. 1373

This bill was introduced by Representatives DeLauro (D-CT), Hoyer (D-MD), and McGovern (D-MA).

Purpose:
To establish a grant program to improve the quality and expand the availability of child care services for children under 3 and support services for their families; to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to cover employers that have more than 20 employees; to increase Head Start funding.

Summary:

Grants for Early Learning and Opportunity, and Family Support Services

- Authorizes $360 million per year over 5 years for grants to expand child care services.
- Provides competitive grants to states to increase the quality and availability of child care services for children under 3 years of age and support services for the families of such children.
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services will give priority for awarding grants to eligible states that have demonstrated in their grant application that they:
    - Will minimize administrative costs while carrying out the plans described in the application;
    - Have coordinated the activities described in the application with providers of child care services and family support services located in the state;
    - Have taken substantial legislative or executive action to reduce the duplication of, and barriers to providing such services; and
    - Will reimburse such providers during the fiscal year for which the grant is received at rates that reflect--
        - the higher costs incurred by such providers who are accredited; and
        - the higher costs incurred by such providers who care for very young children.
- To become eligible for a grant, a state must submit a grant that satisfies the following requirements:
    - The grant application was prepared in consultation with providers of child care services and family support services located in the state.

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- The grant application describes how the state will accomplish the following:
  - Improve the quality of child care services and licensing standards (with an emphasis on child-staff ratios, group size, staff qualifications, staff training, health and safety, and linkages to parents and community services);
  - Improve enforcement of licensing standards;
  - Improve salaries for child care providers;
  - Support training for child care providers, including care for children with special needs;
  - Create incentives for individuals to obtain, and child care centers to employ individuals who have obtained, more advanced training in providing child care services;
  - Improve accessibility to child care services for children under 3 years of age by increasing the quality and availability of resource and referral services and transportation services for families;
  - Make child care services for children under 3 more affordable;
  - Improve and expand support services to families of children under 3; and
  - Improve the coordination of existing federal and state programs that provide support services to families with children under 3.

The grant application must provide assurances that:

- Not more than 70 % of the cost of carrying out the program described in the grant application would be paid for with the grant and other available federal funds;
- Such grant will be used to supplement, not supplant, non-federal funds available to provide child care services and support services;
- The state will expend from state funds at least 30% of the total amount of the grant (provide a 30% state match); and
- The grant will be administered by a lead agency.

Model Training Program for Employees of Child Care Providers

- The Secretary of Health and Human Services would:
  - Develop a voluntary model training program for child care staff;
  - Make the model training code available to Head Start agencies and other child care providers; and
  - Provide technical assistance to implement the training program.

Amendment to Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

- Amends the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to cover employers that have more than 20, instead of 50, employees. This would extend parental leave privileges to more than 13 million additional working parents.

Amendments to the Head Start Act

- Increases funding for Head Start by $600 million per year from FY 1999-FY 2002.

- Increases the percentage of Head Start funds for training and technical assistance from 2% to 3%.
- Increases the percentage of Head Start funding for Early Head Start from 5% in FY 1998 to 9% in FY 2002.

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C. care - legislation

7-18-97

WORKING FAMILIES CHILD CARE ACT OF 1997, S. 19

The bill was introduced by Senators Dodd (D-CT), Daschle (D-SD), Kennedy (D-MA), Mikulski (D-MD), Rockefeller (D-WV), Murray (D-WA), Torricelli (D-NJ), and Boxer (D-CA).

Purpose:
To provide funds for child care for low-income working families, families moving from welfare to work and families at risk of becoming welfare dependent. Responds to the increased need for high quality, affordable, accessible child care under welfare reform.

Summary:

- Increases subsidies for working families from $1 billion per year to $2 billion per year.

- Provides $1.4 billion in child care funds to states. The Congressional Budget Office estimates there will be a $1.4 billion shortfall over 6 years in child care funds to meet the needs of families meeting the work requirements of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to use $1.4 billion from Treasury funds not otherwise appropriated for grants to states to provide child care services for families who have left welfare for work, families at risk of becoming dependent on TANF, and low-income working families.

- Authorizes $500 million per year for grants to states to provide child care services in areas of the states that have child care shortages, as determined by the states and their localities. These child care activities must include the following programs: infant care, before- and after-school care, resource and referral, nontraditional work hours, extended-hour pre-kindergarten programs to provide full-day services, any other child care programs that the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) determines are appropriate.
  - **Recommended Addition**:
    Include, that in determining what other activities are appropriate under this section, the Secretary must consult with child care providers, child advocates and parents. Suggested language for section 4 (a)(E)(ii)(VI) : "Any other child care programs that the Secretary, **in consultation with child care providers, child advocates, and parents**, determines are appropriate."

- Requires annual reports by states to include information on access to child care by low-income working families, including obstacles to such services. Requires annual reports by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to place particular emphasis on access of low-income working families to child care.

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- This bill would take effect as if included in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193).

- Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) introduced a similar house bill, the **Working Families Child Care Act of 1997**, H.R. 899.

Action Needed:

Write, call or meet with members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources and your respective senators and urge them to support the Working Families Child Care Act of 1997, S.19, because it would authorize additional funding for child care, which is necessary to ensure the healthy development of children and the success of welfare reform.

Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources

Majority Members
James Jeffords (VT), Chair; Dan Coats (IN); Judd Gregg (NH); Bill Frist (TN); Mike DeWine (OH); Michael Enzi (WY); Tim Hutchinson (AR); Susan Collins (ME); John Warner (VA); Mitch McConnell (KY)

Minority Members
Edward Kennedy (MA), Ranking Member; Christopher Dodd (CT); Tom Harkin (IA); Barbara Mikulski (MD); Jeff Bingaman (NM); Paul David Wellstone (MN); Patty Murray (WA); Jack Reed (RI)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Bruce | Elena -
FYI.
Jen

March 31, 1998

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
Speaker of the House
H232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Newt:

As members of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, we are writing in support of congressional action during this session on legislation to promote quality child care choices for all American families. **Child care must remain a priority for this Congress.**

We have developed bipartisan consensus on a list of principles that should govern new child care spending this session. These concepts, as well as viable funding proposals, are contained in many of the over 50 bills that have been introduced to date. We believe these principles contain a bipartisan set of goals that will dramatically help the millions of families who struggle every day in America with difficult child care decisions. These decisions are extremely personal. Many parents feel handcuffed by economic concerns, others worry about the safety of child care, and others have children with needs that require special settings. We must respect and enable parents' ability to make the child care choice that is best for their situation. While all families face different circumstances that make their decision-making process unique, they all are confronted with issues related to availability, affordability and quality of care.

Congress can and should take actions that will improve parents' prospects for finding child care that meets these concerns. If we expect our work on welfare reform to be successful, we have to face the hard facts that child care is a necessity for helping parents find independence from public assistance. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that in 1996, 96 percent of fathers and 63 percent of mothers with children under age 6 worked. Some of these parents worked part-time and others worked full-time, but they all faced decisions about what to do with their children when they were at work. For most families in America today, child care is not an option, but a necessity. For most working parents, child care is not a luxury, but a fact of everyday life.

These are the key principles on which the Women's Caucus has found bipartisan support. Each principle complements the others and all should be included in any legislation that comes before the House.

> **Increase Certificate Funding for Low-Income Families** — We have put tremendous pressure on the states to comply with our work targets as part of welfare reform. This pressure is causing states to invest the majority of their Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding in finding child care for families who are leaving welfare. This help is crucial for families gaining independence. But if that independence is to be permanent and if the thousands of low-income families who are struggling to maintain jobs are to stay off welfare, we have to invest additional funds in CCDBG to give states the resources they need to meet the increasing demand for

vouchers. When you visit day care centers, you hear of the pressure to drop very low-income working families who have not been on welfare to make room for women coming off welfare. This is unfair and intolerable. It also will not accomplish our goal of fostering work.

Lower Taxes for Working Families and Stay-at-Home Spouses — **We must** modernize the Dependent Care Tax Credit to provide more realistic assistance for low- and middle-incomes families who pay taxes. This would allow families to lower their taxes, keep more of their income and help meet child care expenses. In addition, we should seriously consider changing the DCTC to make it available to families in which one spouse stays at home to care for children. If the income guidelines are met, the DCTC should flow to the family regardless of whether a parent or provider cares for the child.

Promote Quality Child Care — Since quality in child care services varies throughout states and localities, we must give communities the flexibility to design programs that best fit their needs. While there is no one-size-fits-all solution for quality child care, there are things we can do at the federal, state and local levels to improve and enhance the quality of care our children receive. These initiatives could include assisting states in enforcing health and safety standards and state-determined staff/child ratios for center-based care, improving provider and parent training and education in early childhood development, and encouraging competitive wages for child care workers.

The Women's Caucus supports action on these critical issues and encourages the Leadership to move forward with legislation before the 105th Congress adjourns. **We urge you to join us in finding room for increased funding for child care within our commitment to a balanced budget.** We must listen to the concerns of America's working families and help them meet their child care needs.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Johnson

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Sue Kelly

Carolyn B. Maloney

Connie Morella

Ellen Tauscher

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Statement of Eleanor Holmes Norton at the Women's Caucus and Lifetime Television Child Care Priorities Press Conference

March 31, 1998

With the help of Lifetime Television, the Women's Caucus is today announcing a campaign to secure child care legislation which gives choices to at-work and at-home families when there is no way to care for their children. Though the women Members of Congress have different views on how to provide child care, we are one in saying that there must be child care legislation this session of Congress. Some of us want certificates that low-income families can use in child care facilities. Others want lower taxes for spouses who decide to stay home. All of us want to promote greater quality in all child care. The Women's Caucus recently had a groundbreaking hearing on the astounding new science on the brain development of a child 0-3. The basic cognitive, linguistic, emotional, and motor skills develop in the first three years. These critical life skills depend on high quality child care.

Last year, child care to get people off welfare was the child care issue. This year's issue must be child care for working families. This year, low income families are literally uncompetitive with welfare families because child care block grant funds are going to welfare families. We must not send the message that to get child care you have to go on welfare first. Today we must send the opposite message must be true: get a job and we will help you get child care.

Lifetime Television can help us relieve the silent crisis which is forcing millions of working families alone, beleaguered, and strapped to leave their children in place and in ways that they cannot justify. I support President Clinton's comprehensive bill, but in the face of the crisis we are facing, none of us should cling to the notion of my way or no way.

Rather we must come together around basic cild care goals for children and families and provide basic relief to low and moderate income families desperate for that relief. Lifetime Television and the Women's Caucus are leading the way. We know we are leading the way for millions of Americans.

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

RICHARD J. RIORDAN
MAYOR

April 15, 1998

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

There is no denying that education will be the key to opportunity in the economy of the 21st Century. There is also no denying the fact that today we are profoundly failing our children -- widening the gap between the have's and the have not's. My letter is twofold: I would first like to commend you on your bold initiatives to see that our children and their education is a priority in the coming century. I would also urge you to dedicate a portion of the national budget surplus to education.

Government at every level must break loose the gridlock of funding and deliver money where the kids are. That's why I am sponsoring a statewide proposition to "put the money where the kids are." If passed by California voters in June, it will require that 95 cents out of every education dollar goes into the classroom, not to the bureaucracy. A well run school district will use its resources well, but a poorly run school system will use any amount of money poorly. If there is one thing I can say with absolute assurance, it is that we will only fix our schools if we understand that our risk is arduous and that we must accomplish nothing short of a total revolution.

Officeholders of both parties at every level of government need to face the fact that we need to spend more money on education, but we need to spend that money wisely. Clearly, we must ensure the long-term solvency of the Social Security Program. But let's pledge an equal commitment to the next generation of Americans.

President Clinton
April 15, 1998
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I applaud the work you are doing to ensure the expansion of not only education funding, but also after-school and child care programs. I commend your recommendation for the additional appropriation of $200 million a year for after-school programs. These are the initiatives that will truly help the children who are currently being left behind.

No where are the challenges greater to revive education than in Los Angeles. In addition to the funding initiatives you included in your budget, Los Angeles would use any additional funds to end social promotion, integrate technology, build new classrooms, stock our libraries and train and hire new teachers, and expand the school day and year.

I know we share many of the same goals. I pledge to work with you to lead an education revolution to ensure that our nation's kids have the tools to compete in the 21st Century. I hope we can count on the federal government to be a full partner in this effort.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Riordan
Mayor

RJR:gw/shl