CHILD CARE LEGISLATION – 105th CONGRESS, Second Session
1998

BILL	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives	Other Features
President's Child Care Initiative *announced 1/7/98*	$21.7 billion over 5 years.	Provides an additional $7.5 billion in mandatory funding over 5 years through the CCDBG to increase the amount of child care subsidies available to working families, doubling the number of children served by the grant by FY 2003.	Establishes a new Early Learning Fund -- $3 billion over 5 years -- which provides challenge grants to communities (distributed to states) to support programs to improve early learning and the quality and safety of child care for children ages zero to five. Funds may be used for a variety of activities. Also supports enforcement of state child care health and safety standards, provides scholarships to up to 50,000 child care providers per year, facilitates background checks on child care providers, and invests in research and consumer education.	Expands the 21st Century Community Learning Center program by $800 million over 5 years to provide funds to school-community partnerships to establish or expand programs for school-age children, providing after-school care for 500,000 children per year. The President's Initiative also includes a collaborative effort involving numerous federal agencies to eliminate duplication and better coordinate federal funding for after-school programs in three to five pilot cities. Invests $3.8 billion over 5 years in order to meet the goal of serving one million children in Head Start and doubling the number of children served by Early Head Start by 2002.	Invests $5.2 billion over 5 years in the DCTC, increasing tax credits for three million working families with incomes below $60,000.	Includes approximately $500 million over 5 years for tax credits to businesses that provide child care services for their employees, building or expanding child care facilities, operating existing facilities, training child care workers, reserving slots for employees at child care facilities, or providing child care resource and referral services to employees. The credit covers 25% of the qualified costs (maximum credit – $150,000/year).	Includes research on child care issues that could benefit low income families, innovations in the use of technology to promote distance learning and interactive computer programs in provider education and training, and demonstration projects to test new approaches to help new parents who choose to stay home to care for newborns or newly adopted children. Also includes a national center for child care statistics and a child care hotline.

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S. 1577 **Chafee (R-RI)** *introduced 1/28/98* <u>Co-Sponsors</u> Collins (R-ME) Hatch (R-UT) Roberts (R-KS) Snowe (R-ME) Specter (R-PA) **H.R. 3144** **Johnson (R-CT)** *introduced 2/3/98*	—	Provides an additional $5 billion in discretionary funding over 5 years, doubling the discretionary authorization for CCDBG.	Authorizes $50 million per year to increase parents' access to information and to provide technological assistance to child care providers and workers to improve quality of child care. Funds could be used to collect and disseminate information, and for grants to organizations to develop and operate training infrastructure. Requires states to improve inspections and enforce existing state health and safety standards. Provides incentives to states that inspect facilities, as required under state law, and penalizes states that fail to meet inspection minimums. Mandates that federal child care centers comply with state and local licensing requirements.	--	Incomes of less than $30,000 -- credit increased to 50%. Credit reduced by 1% for each $1,500 earned over $30,000. Eligibility is capped at $105,000. Extends eligibility of DCTC to stay-at-home parents with children age 3 and under and others who do not pay for child care.	Similar to President's Initiative, but credit covers 20% of expenses up to $100,000. Includes a demonstration project which authorizes $60 million over 3 years in competitive grants to encourage small businesses to develop child care programs for their employees. Promotes greater availability of the Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP).	
H.R. 3129 **Roukema (R-NJ)** *introduced 1/28/98*	—	—	—	—	—	Authorizes funds through the Department of Education for grants to local educational agencies in order to work with the private sector to provide care to pre-Kindergarten children.	

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H.R. 3135 **Weygand (D-RI)** *introduced 1/28/98* <u>Co-Sponsors</u> Frost (D-TX) Torres (D-CA)	----	----	----	----	Makes the DCTC refundable. Incomes of up to $18,000 eligible for 30% credit. Above $20,000 – credit reduced by one percentage point for each $3,000 above $18,000 (but not below 12%). Increases limit of employment-related expenses to: $4,000 for one qualifying individual; $8,000 for two or more.		

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S. 1610 **Dodd (D-CT)** *introduced 2/4/98* Co-Sponsors Akaka (D-HI) Biden (D-DE) Bingaman (D-NM) Boxer (D-CA) Bumpers (D-AR) Daschle (D-SD) Dorgan (D-ND) Durbin (D-IL) Feinstein (D-CA) Graham (D-FL) Harkin (D-IA) Inouye (D-HI) Kennedy (D-MA) Kerrey (D-NE) Kerry (D-MA) Landrieu (D-LA) Lautenberg (D-NJ) Levin (D-MI) Moseley-Braun (D-IL) Mikulski (D-MD) Murray (D-WA) Reed (D-RI) Reid (D-NV) Rockefeller (D-WV) Wellstone (D-MN)	Approximately $30 billion over 5 years.	Provides an additional $7.5 billion in mandatory funding over 5 years through the CCDBG to increase the amount of child care subsidies available to working families, doubling the number of children served by the grant by FY 2003.	Provides $3 billion in mandatory funding over 5 years through CCDBG to encourage states to invest in child care and early childhood development quality activities. Funds may be used for a variety of activities. Mandates that Federal child care centers obtain appropriate state and local licenses and comply with child care licensing requirements. Directs GSA to establish and enforce child care health, safety, and facility standards and require centers to comply with accreditation standards.	Expands the 21st Century Community Learning Center program by $1 billion over 5 years to provide funds to encourage schools to create before- and after-school programs. Provides $3 billion over 5 years through the CCDBG to increase the supply and quality of school-age care. Increases the age of children eligible to be served with block grant funds from 13 to 15.	Makes the DCTC refundable. Increases tax credit to 50% for families with incomes of $30,000. Above $30,000 – credit reduced by one percentage point for each $1,000 above $30,000 (but not below 20%). Limit of employment-related expenses adjusted for inflation. Eligibility limited to $60,000. Allows stay-at-home parents with children under age one to claim a portion of the DCTC, based upon imputed expenses of $90/month (maximum credit $540). Incomes of up to $30,000 eligible for 50% credit. Above $30,000 – credit reduced by one percentage point for each $800 above $30,000 (but not below zero). Eligibility limited to $70,000.	Authorizes $1 billion over 5 years to create new program of competitive "challenge grants" in which communities which generate funds from the private sector would be eligible for matched federal grants to improve availability and quality of child care. $500 million over 5 years to provide 25% tax credit to employers for operating on-site child care centers, contracting for off-site child care, contributing to the costs of accreditation, or operating resource and referral systems.	Expands the Family and Medical Leave Act to include businesses with 25-50 employees.

B" .L	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives	Other Features
H.R. 3292 **Kennelly (D-CT)** *introduced 2/26/98* <u>Co-Sponsors</u> Bonior (D-MI) Boucher (D-VA) Faleomavaega (D-AS) Frank (D-MA) Frost (D-TX) Hastings (D-FL) Matsui (D-CA) McNulty (D-NY) Meehan (D-MA) Neal (D-MA) Towns (D-NY)		Provides an additional $8 billion in mandatory funding over 5 years through the CCDBG to augment current CCDBG funding. Requirements: states would have to draw down current CCDBG allocation before accessing these new funds; new funds would only require 20% state match; at least 70% of new funding must be used for child care assistance to working, low-income families who are not on welfare.	Invests $3 billion over 5 years through the CCDBG to improve the quality and safety of child care. States may use funds for a variety of activities. Funds would be distributed to the states in the same manner as the current CCDBG, except state match would be lowered to 20%.	Expands the 21st Century Learning Center Program by $1 billion over 5 years. Invests $3 billion over 5 years through the CCDBG to increase the supply and quality of after-school care programs (with a 20% state match).	Increases tax credit to 50% for families with incomes of $30,000. Above $30,000 – credit reduced by one percentage point for each $1,000 above $30,000 (but not below 20%). Eligibility limited to $60,000. Also prevents the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) from reducing this and other non-refundable tax credits. Extends eligibility of Child Tax Credit (CTC) to stay-at-home parents with children under 4. The credit would be equivalent to the current $500 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.	Provides to businesses 25% credit of qualified costs (to a maximum of $150,000/year) for building or expanding on-site child care facilities, operating existing on-site child care facilities, or contracting with a licensed child care facility.	

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H.R. 3296 **Morella (R-MD)** *introduced 2/26/98* <u>Co-Sponsors</u> Green (D-TX) Jackson-Lee (D-TX) Johnson (R-CT) Kennedy (D-MA) Price (D-NC) Woolsey (D-CA)	Authorizes $60 million for FY 1999, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the four succeeding fiscal years.	--	—	Grants of at least $10,000 will be available to higher education institutions to support the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based child care services. Eligible institutions include those whose total amount of Federal Pell grant awards exceeds $1 million.	--	---	
H.R. 3293 **Kildee (D-MI)** *introduced 2/26/98*	Authorizes $60 million for FY 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the four succeeding fiscal years			*Same as Morella bill*	Increases the dependent care allowance for Pell Grant recipients from $750 to $1,500.		

B'' L	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives	Other Features
S. 1697 **Kennedy (D-MA)** *introduced 3/2/98* Co-Sponsors Akaka (D-HI) Kerry (D-MA) Reed (D-RI) **H.R. 3400** **Slaughter (D-NY)** *introduced 3/5/98* Co-Sponsors Abercrombie (D-HI) Ackerman (D-NY) Allen (D-ME) Brown (D-CA) Clay (D-MO) DeFazio (D-OR) DeLauro (D-CT) Frank (D-MA) Frost (D-TX) Hinchey (D-NY) Hooley (D-OR) Johnson, E.B. (D-TX) Kildee (D-MI) Lewis (D-CA) Lofgren (D-CA) Matsui (D-CA) McGovern (D-MA) Meehan (D-MA) Morella (R-MD) Neal (D-MA) Owens (D-NY) Rahall (D-WV) Sandlin (D-TX) Underwood (D-Guam) Vento (D-MN) Waxman (D-CA)	Authorizes $7.25 billion over 5 years.	—	—	Expands the 21st Century Learning Center Program by $1 billion over 5 years. Expands the CCDBG by $5 billion over 5 years to increase the availability and affordability of quality before- and after-school child care, and summer and weekend activities for school age children to promote good health and academic achievement and to help avoid high risk behavior.	—	—	Authorizes funds through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of $250,000,000 for each of FYs 1999 through 2003, to be used for after school prevention programs rather than strictly enforcement programs. Total of $1.25 billion over 5 years.

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H.R. 315 **Solomon (R-NY)** *introduced 1/7/97*	**H.R. 315** none	—	—	—	—	Eligibility is capped at $50,000. Increases limit of employment-related expenses to $3,600 for one qualifying individual; $5,400 for two or more.	—
S. 19 Dodd (D-CT) *introduced 1/21/97* **H.R. 2399** **Clayton (D-NC)** *introduced 9/4/97*	S. 19 Daschle (D-SD) Boxer (D-CA) Kennedy (D-MA) Kerry (D-MA) Kerrey (D-NE) Landrieu (D-LA) Mikulski (D-MD) Murray (D-WA) Rockefeller (D-WV) Torricelli (D-NJ)		Increases authorization level for discretionary CCDBG program from $1 billion to $2 billion a year to increase child care subsidies to help more welfare families and low-income working families pay for child care services and provides grants to states to respond to child care supply shortages.	—	Authorizes an additional $500 million for each of FYs 1997 through 2002 to increase availability of specifically targeted child care services in areas of the states that have child care supply shortages. Activities include: infant-care, before- and after-school care, resource and referral programs, non-traditional work hours child care programs, and programs to extend the hours of prekindergarten.	—	—

Bill	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
S. 82 Kohl (D-WI) *introduced 1/21/97* H.R. 1706 Maloney (D-NY) *introduced 5/22/97*	S. 82 Hatch (R-UT) Moseley-Braun (D-IL) H.R. 1706 Abercrombie (D-HI) Ackerman (D-NY) Brown, C. (D-FL) English (R-PA) Frost (D-TX) Hastings, A. (D-FL) Horn (R-CA) Jackson-Lee (D-TX) Johnson, E. (D-TX) Kennedy, P. (D-RI) Lofgren (D-CA) Manton (D-NY) Price (D-NC) Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) Rush (D-IL) Weygand (D-RI)	---	---	---	---	---	Provides employers with a federal tax credit for up to $150,000 per year equal to 50 percent of the employer's child care expenditures. Encourages employers to operate on- or near-site child care centers, and contract with child care centers or resource and referral agencies to provide services to employees. Focused primarily on children of employees of participating businesses, although businesses have the flexibility of include the children of non-employees in child care centers they build or operate.

BI'' L	Bill Co-S[illegible] rs	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
H.R. 899 **Woolsey (D-CA)** *introduced 2/27/97*	**H.R. 899** Ackerman (D-NY) Baldacci (D-ME) Conyers (D-MI) Dellums (D-CA) Eschoo (D-CA) Frost (D-TX) Hilliard (D-AL) Hinchey D-NY) Lewis, John (D-GA) Lofgren (D-CA) Maloney, C. (D-NY) Martinez (D-CA) Meehan (D-MA) Miller, G. (D-CA) Rothman (D-NJ) Rush (D-IL) Weygand (D-RI)	—	Increases authorization level for discretionary CCDBG by $1.4 billion for each of FYs 1997 through 2002 to increase child care subsidies to help more low-income working families pay for child care services.	—	*Same as Dodd/Clayton bills.*	—	—

Bill	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
H.R. 988 Pryce (R-OH) *introduced 3/6/97*	**H.R. 988** Ackerman (D-NY) Bereuter (R-NE) Bonior (D-MI) Clayton (D-NC) Conyers (D-MI) Cummings (D-MD) Danner (M-MO) Deutsch (D-FL) Engel (D-NY) Evans (D-IL) Faleomavaega (D-AS) Fattah (D-PA) Filner (D-CA) Foglietta (D-PA) Fowler (R-FL) Frost (D-TX) Granger (R-TX) Greenwood (R-PA) Guiterrez (D-IL) Hinchey D-NY) Jackson-Lee (D-TX) Kelly (R-NY) King (R-NY) Klug (R-WI) Knollenberg (R-MI) Latham (R-IA) Lofgren (D-CA) Maloney, C. (D-NY) Martinez (D-CA) McHugh (R-NY) Menendez (D-NJ) Moran, J.P. (D-VA) Myrick (R-NC) Nadler (D-NY) Payne, D. (D-NJ) Rivers (D-MI) Roemer (D-IN) Shays (R-CT) Slaughter (D-NY) Solomon (R-NY) Underwood (D-GU) Vento (D-MN) Walsh (R-NY) Woolsey (D-CA)	—	—	—	—	—	Provides employers with a federal tax credit equal to 50 percent of the employer's expenditures for child care services provided on-site or adjacent to the business premises and operated for the employees children.
S. 490 **Akaka (D-HI)** *introduced 3/20/97*	**S. 490** none	—	—	—	—	Provides an annual inflation adjustment to the allowable expenses and credit amount for the DCTC.	—

Bill	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
S. 548 Roberts (R-KS) *introduced 4/10/97*	S. 548 Cochran (R-MS) Collins (R-ME) Enzi (R-WY) Hutchison (R-TX)	—	—	—	--	Incomes of up to $20,000 eligible for 30% credit. Above $20,000 -- credit reduced by one percentage point for each $2,000 above $20,000 (but not below 20%). Limits eligibility to: $90,000 for families filing a joint return, unmarried individuals who earn $65,000, and married individuals filing a separate return who earn $45,000. Increases limit of employment-related expenses to: $3,600 for one qualifying individual; $5,400 for two.	Authorizes $25 million for each of FYs 1998 through 2000 for states to award grants to small businesses to provide child care. Grants can be used for start-up costs, training of providers, scholarships, and sick care.

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H.R. 1373 **DeLauro (D-CT)** *introduced 4/17/97* *See H.R. 2713, DeLauro, introduced 10/23/97.*	**H.R. 1373** Abercrombie (D-HI) Allen (D-ME) Brown, G. (D-CA) Brown, S. (D-OH) Clayton (D-NC) Christian-Green (D-VI) Cummings (D-MD) Davis, D. (D-IL) Dellums (D-CA) DeGette (D-CO) Evans (D-IL) Faleomavaega (D-AS) Fattah (D-PA) Filner (D-CA) Ford (D-TN) Frost (D-TX) Gephardt (D-MO) Gejdenson (D-CT) Guiterrez (D-IL) Hoyer (D-MD) Jefferson (D-LA) Johnson, E. (D-TX) Kucinich (D-OH) Lewis, John (D-GA) Lofgren (D-CA) Maloney, C. (D-NY) Martinez (D-CA) McGovern (D-MA) Mink (D-HI) Moakley (D-MA) Olver (D-MA) Payne, D. (D-NJ) Pelosi (D-CA) Rush (D-IL) Slaughter (D-NY) Stark (D-CA) Thompson (D-MS) Tierney (D-MA) Towns (D-NY) Underwood (D-GU) Weygand (D-RI) Woolsey (D-CA)	Authorizes $360 million a year for each of FYs 1998 through 2002 to states for specific child care quality improvement activities; increases Head Start funding by $600 million per year for each of FYs 1999 through 2002; gradually increases the Early Head Start set-aside to 9% by FY 2002.	---	Improves the quality of licensing standards, 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.	Authorizes funds for a competitive grant program to improve quality and availability of child care and family support services, and to improve coordination of existing services and programs. Competition among states to receive grants. 30 percent state match required.	---	Expands the Family and Medical Leave Act to employers that have more than 20 employees.
S. 654 **Snowe (R-ME)** *introduced 4/25/97* **H.R. 2553** **Morella (R-MD)** *introduced 9/25/97*	**S. 654** none **H.R. 2553** Allen (D-ME) Christian-Green (D-VI) Davis, D. (D-IL) Evans (D-IL) Frost (D-TX) Kennedy, P. (D-RI) McGovern (D-MA) Olver (D-MA) Rivers (D-MI) Sandlin (D-TX) Torres (D-CA)	—	—	—	Includes provisions for respite care.	Makes the DCTC refundable. Incomes of less than $15,000 – 50% credit. Above $15,000 – credit reduced by one percentage point for each $1,000 above $15,000 (but not below 20%).	—

Bill[1]	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
S. 756 **Kerry (D-MA)** *introduced 5/15/97* *See S. 1309, Kerry, introduced 10/22/97.*	**S. 756** Harkin (D-IA) Hollings (D-SD) Kennedy (D-MA) Mosley-Braun (D-IL) Moynihan (D-MA) Murray (D-WA) Rockefeller (D-WV) Wellstone (D-MN)	Adds $11 billion to support states 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.	Provides grants to states to provide supportive services to children and their families; increases CCDBG, increasing child care subsidies for children under age 6.	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.	Expands local supportive services for children age 6 and under, and adds zero to six program to CCDBG to improve access and quality of infant and toddler care. 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 month period to participate in school activities.	—	—
H.R. 1667 **Johnson (R-CT)** *introduced 5/20/97*	**H.R. 1667** none	—	—	—	Includes provisions for respite care.	Incomes of up to $15,000 – 50% credit. Above $15,000 -- credit reduced by one percentage point for each $1,000 above $15,000 (but not below 20%). Similar to Snowe bill, except does not make DCTC refundable.	—

E _L	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
S. 882 Boxer (D-CA) *introduced 6/11/97* H.R. 2408 Lofgren (D-CA) *introduced 9/4/97*	S. 882 none H.R. 2408 Ackerman (D-NY) Allen (D-ME) Baldacci (D-ME) Bonior (D-MI) Brown, G. (D-CA) Christian-Green (D-VI) Clayton (D-NC) Cummings (D-MD) Dellums (D-CA) Engel (D-NY) Faleomavaega (D-AS) Filner (D-CA) Ford (D-TN) Frost (D-TX) Hinchey D-NY) Hooley (D-OR) Lewis, John (D-GA) McGovern (D-MA) Olver (D-MA) Payne, D. (D-NJ) Sandlin (D-TX) Slaughter (D-NY) Stark (D-CA) Weygand (D-RI) Wynn (D-MD)	---	---	---	Authorizes appropriations of $50 million, which is estimated to cover 300-500 programs for after school enrichment for kindergarten, elementary, and secondary school aged students. Schools wishing to receive grants will submit applications to the Secretary of Education. Recipients must provide at least two of the following activities: mentoring programs, academic assistance, recreational activities, technology training. Grants may also be used for: drug, alcohol, and gang prevention; health and nutrition counseling; job skills preparation.	---	---

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S. 926 **Harkin (D-IA)** *introduced 6/17/97*	**S. 926** Murray (D-WA)	—	—	—	—	Incomes of up to $50,000 eligible for 30% credit. Over $50,000 – credit reduced by one percentage point for each $3,000 (but not below 20%). Increases limit of employment-related expenses for incomes less $50,000 to: 1) $4,000 for one qualifying individual; 2) $8,000 for two or more. Increases limit of employment-related expenses for incomes over $50,000 to: 1) $4,000 for one qualifying individual reduced (but not below $2,400) by $53.33 for each $1,000 above $50,000; 2) $8,000 for two or more reduced (but not below $4,800) by $106.66 for each $1,000 above $50,000.	—

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S. 1037 **Jeffords (R-VT)** *introduced 7/17/97* **Gilman (R-NY)** **H.R. 2213** *introduced 7/22/97*	**S. 1037** Chafee (R-RI) Dodd (D-CT) Enzi (R-WY) Johnson (D-SD) Kohl (D-WI) Landrieu (D-LA) Murray (D-WA) Roberts (R-KS) Snowe (R-ME) **H.R. 2213** Deutsch (D-FL) Kelly (R-NY)	—	—	Encourages the use of quality child care by linking increases in the DCTC to quality services. Authorizes appropriations to establish a program of competitive grants to states to improve child care quality. Requires recipient states to establish a subsidy for certified child care providers, establish a grant program to assist small businesses in operating child care programs, and carry out one or more of 7 specified activities. Authorizes appropriations to requires technical assistance and the collection and dissemination of information concerning the importance of high quality child care. Mandates competitive grants to certain child care credentialing or accreditation entities, with the grants used to refine and evaluate the entities' procedures.	Allows child care service providers with a certificate or degree in early childhood education or development to have their student loan repayments altered or canceled. Requires the D.Ed., HUD, Justice, and Labor to ensure that any child care made available under any Federal financial assistance carried out by those agencies be provided by an accredited child care center or a credentialed child care professional.	Makes the DCTC refundable. For expenses provided in accredited facilities or credentialed professional: incomes of up to $20,000 eligible for 30% credit; over $20,000 -- credit reduced ratably for each $2,500 above $20,000 (but not below 12.5%). Other cases: incomes of up to $20,000 eligible for 30% credit; above $20,000 -- credit reduced ratably for each $2,500 above $20,000 (but not below 10%). Eligibility is capped at $70,000. Limit of employment-related expenses: <u>accredited/credentialed</u> • FY 1998: $5,200 for one qualifying individual; $6,700 for two or more. • FY 1999: $5,400 for one; $6,900 for two or more. • FY 2000: $5,600 for one; $7,100 for two or more. • FY 2001: $4,800 for one; $7,300 for two or more.	Allows a business credit for 50% of qualified child care expenses, including the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, or expansion of property, operating costs, services contracts, and accreditation costs. Terminates the credit after 1999.

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continued S. 1037 Jeffords (R-VT) *introduced 7/17/97* H.R. 2213 Gilman (R-NY) *introduced 7/22/97*		—		Expands clearinghouse and electronic network for the distribution of child care information in order to facilitate accreditation and credentialing. Mandates Federal child care centers comply with state and local licensing requirements and accreditation standards.		For all other care: • FY 1998: $4,800 for one qualifying individual; $6,300 for more than one. • FY 1999: $4,600 for one; $6,100 for more than one. • FY 2000: $4,400 for one; $5,900 for more than one. • FY 2001: $4,200 for one; $5,700 for more than one. • FY 2002 and thereafter: $4,000 for one; $5,500 for more than one.	

Bill	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
S. 1029 DeWine (R-OH) *introduced 7/17/97*	S. 1029 Hollings (D-SC) Landrieu (D-LA) Wellstone (D-MN)	—	—	Authorizes $10 million for FY 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the four succeeding fiscal years to provide loan forgiveness for individuals who earn a degree in early childhood education and enter and remain employed in the early childhood profession, and to provide loan cancellation for certain child care providers. Would bring more highly trained individuals into the early child care profession and would keep more highly training providers in the early child care field for longer periods of time.	—	—	—
S. 1151 Dodd (D-CT) *introduced 9/5/97*	S. 1151 Daschle (D-SD) Inouye (D-HI) Johnson (D-SD) Kennedy (D-MA) Landrieu (D-LA) Snowe (R-ME)	Authorized to be appropriated: $60,000 for FY 98 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the four succeeding fiscal years.	—	—	Authorizes appropriations for the Secretary of Education to award grants to assist institutions of higher education in providing campus-based child care services to low-income students.	—	—

Bill	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
H.R. 2452 Woolsey (D-CA) *introduced 9/10/97*	H.R. 2452 none	—	—	—	Authorizes appropriations for the Secretary of HHS to make grants to eligible counties to carry out programs to provide early childhood development and education training to parents in families that receive welfare assistance in order to prepare these parents to obtain employment as caregivers of high quality child care services.	—	—
S. 1309 Kerry (D-MA) / Bond (R-MO) *introduced 10/22/97* *See S. 756, Kerry, introduced 5/15/97.*	S. 1309 Boxer (D-CA) Chafee (R-RI) Durbin (D-IL) Hollings (D-SC) Johnson (D-SD) Kennedy (D-MA) Landrieu (D-LA) Mosley-Braun (D-IL) Moynihan (D-MA) Rockefeller (D-WV) Torricelli (D-NJ) Wellstone (D-MN)	Authorizes a total of $15 billion over 5 years.	Authorizes $3.75 billion over 5 years through the CCDBG to increase child care subsidies for children under age 6.	Provides grants for state and local collaboratives to expand or create initiatives for young at-risk children under 6 years of age. Increases funding for Early Head Start. Authorizes $7.5 billion for these activities.	Authorizes $3.75 billion to increase funding for Head Start.	—	—

Bill	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
H.R. 2713 **DeLauro (D-CT)** *introduced 10/23/97* *See H.R. 1373, DeLauro, introduced 4/17/97.*	H.R. 2713 Abercrombie (D-HI) Allen (D-ME) Brown, C. (D-FL) Cummings (D-MD) Faleomavaega (D-AS) Fattah (D-PA) Filner (D-CA) Ford (D-TN) Frost (D-TX) Hoyer (D-MD) Jackson, Jesse L., Jr. (D-IL) Kennedy, P. (D-RI) Kilpatrick (D-MI) Lantos (D-CA) Lewis, John (D-GA) Lofgren (D-CA) Maloney, C. (D-NY) McDermott (D-WA) McGovern (D-MA) Morella (R-MD) Olver (D-MA) Rush (D-IL)	---	---	Authorizes $500 million for FY 1999, $750 million for FY 2000, and $1 billion for each of the FYs 2001, 2002, and 2003 for a competitive grant program. Grants would be awarded to: improve the quality and availability of care for children under the age of three; improve quality and availability of family support services for the parents of such children; and improve coordination of existing programs and services. Directs the Secretary of HHS to develop a voluntary model training program for child care staff.	---	---	---

Bill	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
H.R. 2719 Lowey (D-NY) *introduced 10/23/97*	H.R. 2719 Waters (D-CA)	—	—	—	—	—	Establishes a business-incentive grant program to provide child care through public-private partnerships. Authorizes funds to provide program grants to cover no more than one-third of the costs for: (1) business consortia to start up or provide additional employee child care services; and (2) nonprofit business organizations to provide technical information and assistance to enable businesses to provide employee child care services. Gives priority in grant selection to business and consortia applicants, especially businesses with fewer than 100 full-time employees. Requires equitable geographic distribution. Requires grantees to ensure that they will provide child care services at affordable rates and on an equitable basis to low- and moderate-income employees.

BILL	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
H.R. 2778 McKinney (D-GA) *introduced 10/30/97*	H.R. 2778 Davis, D. (D-IL) Fattah (D-PA) Filner (D-CA) Frost (D-TX) Hastings, A. (D-FL) Kilpatrick (D-MI) Kucinich (D-OH) Lofgren (D-CA) Lowey (D-NY) Maloney, C. (D-NY) Norton (D-DC) Payne, D. (D-NJ) Sanders (I-VT) Stabenow (D-MI) Underwood (D-GU)	—	—	—	—	Incomes of up to $20,000 eligible for 30% credit. Above $20,000 -- credit reduced by one percentage point for each $2,000 above $20,000 (but not below 20%). Limits eligibility to: $80,000 for families filing a joint return and $50,000 for individual taxpayers. Increases limit of employment-related expenses to:$3,600 for one qualifying individual; $5,400 for two.	—
S. 1490 Jeffords (R-VT) *introduced 11/8/97*	S. 1490 none	$900,000 for FY 98 and such sums as may be necessary to each subsequent fiscal year.	—	Mandates that Federal child care centers obtain appropriate state and local licenses and comply with child care licensing requirements. Directs GSA to establish and enforce child care health, safety, and facility standards and require center to comply with accreditation standards. Provides for technical assistance, studies, and reviews in order to assist child care center operator compliance with these mandates.			

Bill	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
H.R. 2982 Gilman (R-NY) *introduced 11/9/97*	**H.R. 2982** Horn (R-CA) Maloney, C. (D-NY) Shays (R-CT)	*Same as Jeffords (S. 1490).*	—	*Same as Jeffords (S. 1490) except it also allows for the following:* Agencies may conduct demonstration projects to test innovative approaches to providing alternative forms of quality child care assistance for federal employees.	Federal child care facilities required to provide for needs of breast fed infants and their mothers. GSA is authorized to partner with private sectors, allowing spaces to be reserved for federal employee children in non-govt child care centers when it is more cost effective. Definition of federal employee children is broadened to include children in the custody of federal employees and on-site federal contractors, such as grandchildren. Modifies 50% rule, requiring that 50% of total enrollment in federal centers government-wide be federal employee children.	—	—

BILL	Bill Co-Sponsors	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives
H.R. 2872 Fox (R-PA) *introduced 11/7/97* S. 978 Specter (R-PA) *introduced 6/27/97*	H.R. 2872 none S. 978 none	—	—	—	—	—	Similar to Pryce bill, except specifies that credit must be passed on to employees by reducing cost of child care.
S. 1492 Kennedy (D-MA) *introduced 11/8/97* H.R. 3028 DeLauro (D-CT) *introduced 11/12/97*	S. 1492 Durbin (D-IL) Kerry (D-MA) Lautenberg (D-NJ) Reed (D-RI) H.R. 3028 Ackerman (D-NY) DeGette (D-CO) Delahunt (D-MA) Jackson, J. (D-IL) Kennedy (D-MA) Lowey (D-NY) McGovern (D-MA) Maloney (D-NY) Matsui (D-CA) Meehan (D-MA) Miller (D-CA) Morella (R-MD) Norton D-DC) Olver(D-MA) Pallone (D-NJ) Pelosi (D-CA) Rush (D-IL) Serrano (D-NY) Stark (D-CA) Stokes (D-OH) Waters (D-CA) Weygand (D-RI) Yates (D-IL)	Out of the $650 billion (over 25 years) in the Healthy and Smoke Free Children Act, a substantial portion is allocated to expand the CCDBG to increase the availability and affordability of quality child care for children of working families ages birth to school age and for before- and after-school care; to fund Early Head Start; and to expand Head Start. Funding provided to these programs under this Act will supplement, not supplant, existing appropriations.	—	Creates a quality fund within CCDBG, half of which is an incentive fund to reward states that improve quality of their child care programs. Activities would include: • research into early childhood development; • demonstration projects, including public-private partnerships for paid leave to enable mothers with infants to stay at home; • incentives to improve the quality of child care.	—	—	—

DRAFT

CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION -- 105th CONGRESS

	Refundable	Employment-related expenses	Credit	Adjusted for inflation	Other Features
CURRENT LAW	No.	$2,400 for one qualifying individual; $4,800 for two or more. Maximum value of credit ranges from $480 to $720 for a taxpayer with one qualifying individual; $960 to $1,440 for two or more.	Incomes of less than $10,000 -- 30% credit. $10,000-$28,000 -- credit reduced by one percentage point for each $2,000 above $10,000. Above $28,000 -- limited to 20%.	No.	
H.R. 315 **Solomon (R-NY)** *introduced 1/7/97*	No.	$3,600 for one qualifying individual; $5,400 for two or more.	$10,000-$28,000 -- credit reduced by one and a half percentage points for each full $2,000 above $10,000. Incomes of more than $50,000 -- no allowable credit.	No.	
S. 490 **Akaka (D-HI)** *introduced 3/20/97*	No.	Provides an annual inflation adjustment to the allowable expenses and credit amount for the DCTC.	Same as current law.	Yes.	

	Refundable	Employment-related expenses	Credit	Adjusted for inflation	Other Features
S. 548 **Roberts** *introduced 4/10/97*	No.	$3,600 for one qualifying individual; $5,400 for two.	Incomes of less than $20,000 -- 30% credit. Above $20,000 -- credit reduced by one percentage point for each $2,000 above $20,000 (but not below 20%). Phases out the credit at the following incomes: joint return -- $90,000; individual who is not married -- $65,000; married individual filing separate return -- $45,000.	No.	Includes incentive grants for businesses.
S. 654 **Snowe (R-ME)** *introduced 4/25/97* **H.R. 2553** **Morella (R-MD)** *introduced 9/25/97*	Yes.	Same as current law.	Incomes of less than $15,000 -- 50% credit. Above $15,000 -- credit reduced by one percentage point for each $1,000 above $15,000 (but not below 20%).	Yes.	Includes provisions for respite care.

	Refundable	Employment-related expenses	Credit	Adjusted for inflation	Other Features
H.R. 1667 **Johnson (R-CT)** *introduced 5/20/97*	No.	Same as current law.	Incomes of less than $15,000 -- 50% credit. Above $15,000 -- credit reduced by one percentage point for each $1,000 above $15,000 (but not below 20%).	Yes.	Includes provisions for respite care.
S. 926 **Harkin (D-IA)** *introduced 6/17/97*	Yes.	$4,000 for one qualifying individual; $8,000 for two or more. Employment-related expenses for incomes over $50,000: 1) $4,000 for one qualifying individual reduced (but not below $2,400) by $53.33 for each $1,000 above $50,000; 2) $8,000 for two or more reduced (but not below $4,800) by $106.66 for each $1,000 above $50,000.	Incomes of less than $50,000 -- 30% credit. Over $50,000 -- credit reduced by one percentage point for each $3,000 (but not below 20%).	No.	

	Refundable	Employment-related expenses	Credit	Adjusted for inflation	Other Features
S. 1037 **Jeffords (R-VT)** *introduced 7/17/97* **H.R. 2213** **Gilman (R-NY)** *introduced 7/22/97*	Yes.	<u>For child care provided in accredited facilities or by credentialed professional:</u> • FY 1998: $5,200 for one qualifying individual; $6,700 for two or more. • FY 1999: $5,400 for one; $6,900 for two or more. • FY 2000: $5,600 for one; $7,100 for two or more. • FY 2001: $4,800 for one; $7,300 for two or more. • FY 2002 and thereafter: $6,000 for one; $7,500 for two or more. <u>For all other care:</u> • FY 1998: $4,800 for one qualifying individual; $6,300 for more than one. • FY 1999: $4,600 for one; $6,100 for more than one. • FY 2000: $4,400 for one; $5,900 for more than one. • FY 2001: $4,200 for one; $5,700 for more than one. • FY 2002 and thereafter: $4,000 for one; $5,500 for more than one.	For expenses provided in accredited facilities or credentialed professional: incomes of less than $20,000 -- 30% credit; over $20,000 -- credit reduced ratably for each $2,500 above $20,000 (but not below 12.5%). Other cases: incomes of less than $20,000 -- 30% credit; above $20,000 -- credit reduced ratably for each $2,500 above $20,000 (but not below 10%). Incomes above $70,000 -- no allowable credit.		Expands clearing-house and electronic networks for the distribution of child care information. Other provisions related to quality: • incentive grants to states; • funding for National Child Care Information Center; • Funding for child care training infrastructure; • loan forgiveness for child care professionals.

	Refundable	Employment-related expenses	Credit	Adjusted for inflation	Other Features
H.R. 2778 **McKinney (D-GA)** *introduced 10/30/97*	Yes.	$3,600 for one qualifying individual; $5,400 for two or more.	Incomes of less than $20,000 -- 30% credit. Above $20,000 -- reduced by one percentage point for each $1,000 (but not below 20%). Incomes over $50,000 (or $80,000 for joint-return) -- no allowable credit.	No.	

DRAFT

CHILD CARE LEGISLATION -- 105th CONGRESS, Second Session

1998

BILL	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives	Other Features
President's Child Care Initiative *announced 1/7/98*	$21.7 billion over five years.	Provides an additional $7.5 billion in mandatory funds over 5 years through the CCDBG to increase the amount of child care subsidies available to working families, doubling the number of children served by the grant by FY 2003.	Establishes a new Early Learning Fund, as well as supports enforcement of state child care health and safety standards, providing scholarships to up to 50,000 child care providers per year, and investing in research and consumer education.	Expands the 21st Century Community Learning Center program by $800 million over 5 years to provide funds to school-community partnerships to establish or expand programs for school-age children, providing after-school care for 500,000 children per year.	Invests $5.2 billion over five years in the DCTC, increasing tax credits for three million working families with incomes below $60,000.	Provides a new tax credit for businesses that offer child care services for their employees.	Includes research on child care issues that could benefit low income families, innovations in the use of technology to promote distance learning and interactive computer programs in provider education and training, and demonstration projects to test new approaches to help new parents who choose to stay home to care for newborns or newly adopted children. Also includes a national center for child care statistics and a child care hotline.

BILL	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives	Other Features
S. 1577 **Chafee (R-RI)** *introduced 1/28/98* Co-Sponsors Hatch (R-UT) Helms (R-NC) Snowe (R-ME) Roberts (R-KS) Specter (R-PA) Collins (R-ME) **H.R. 3144** **Johnson (R-CT)** *introduced 2/3/98*	----	Provides an additional $5 billion in discretionary funding over 5 years, doubling the authorization for CCDBG.	Authorizes $50 million per year to increase parents' access to information and to provide technological assistance to child care providers and workers to improve quality of child care. Funds could be used to collect and disseminate information, and for grants to organizations to develop and operate training infrastructure. Requires states to improve inspections and enforce existing state health and safety standards. Provides incentives to states that inspect facilities, as required under state law, and penalizes states that fail to meet inspection minimums.	----	Incomes of less than $30,000 -- credit increased to 50%. Credit reduced by 1% for each $1,5000 earned over $30,000. Eligibility is capped at $105,000.	Provides employers with a 20% tax credit on expenses up to $500,000 for employers who construct, renovate, or operate on- or near-site facilities for child care for employees (maximum credit -- $100,000). Includes a demonstration project which authorizes $60 million over 3 years in competitive grants to encourage small businesses to develop child care programs for their employees. Promotes greater availability of the Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP).	Extends eligibility of DCTC to stay-at-home parents with children under 3.
H.R. 3129 **Roukema (R-NJ)** *introduced 1/28/98*	----	----	----	----	----	Authorizes funds through the Department of Education for grants to local educational agencies in order to work with the private sector to provide care to pre-Kindergarten children.	

BILL	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives	Other Features
H.R. 3135 **Wygand (D-RI)** *introduced 1/28/98*	----	----	----	----	Makes the DCTC refundable. Incomes of up to $18,000 eligible for 30% credit. Above $20,000 -- credit reduced by one percentage point for each $3,000 above $18,000 (but not below 12%). Increases limit of employment-related expenses to: $4,000 for one qualifying individual; $8,000 for two or more.		

BILL	Funding Amount	Subsidies	Quality Activities	Other Targeted Child Care Activities	Dependent Care Tax Credits (DCTC)	Employer Incentives	Other Features
Dodd (D-CT) *introduced 2/4/98* Co-Sponsors Akaka (D-HI) Biden (D-DE) Bingaman (D-NM) Boxer (D-CA) Bumpers (D-AR) Daschle (D-SD) Dorgan (D-ND) Durbin (D-IL) Feinstein (D-CA) Graham (D-FL) Harkin (D-IA) Inouye (D-HI) Kennedy (D-MA) Kerrey (D-NE) Kerry (D-MA) Landrieu (D-LA) Lautenberg (D-NJ) Levin (D-MI) Moseley-Braun (D-IL) Mikulski (D-MD) Murray (D-WA) Reed (D-RI) Reid (D-NV) Rockefeller (D-WV) Wellstone (D-MN)	Approximately $30 billion over 5 years.	Provides an additional $7.5 billion in mandatory funding over 5 years through the CCDBG to increase the amount of child care subsidies available to working families, doubling the number of children served by the grant by FY 2003.	Provides $3 billion in mandatory funding over 5 years through CCDBG to encourage states to invest in child care and early childhood development quality activities, such as: bringing provider -child ratios to recommended standards; improving licensing standards; conducting background checks on providers; increasing payment rates for services offered by licensed or accredited providers; improving compensation of providers; assisting providers become licensed or accredited; expanding activities to educate parents on availability and quality of child care; creating support networks for family providers; providing family support and parent education; ensuring availability and quality of care for children with special health needs. Mandates that Federal child care centers obtain appropriate state and local licenses and comply with child care licensing requirements.	Expands the 21st Century Community Learning Center program by $1 billion over 5 years to provide funds to encourage schools to create before- and after-school programs. Allows schools to use the National School Lunch Program to provide nutritious meals or snacks to children in afterschool programs. Provides $3 billion over 5 years through the CCDBG to increase the supply and quality of school-age care. Increases the age of children eligible to be served with block grant funds from 13 to 15.	Makes the DCTC refundable. Incomes of up to $30,000 eligible for 50% credit. Above $30,000 -- credit reduced by one percentage point for each $1,000 above $30,000 (but not below 20%). Limit of employment-related expenses adjusted for inflation. Eligibility limited to $60,000.	Expands the Family and Medical Leave Act to include businesses with 25-50 employees. Authorizes $1 billion over 5 years to create new program of competitive "challenge grants" in which communities which generate funds from the private sector would be eligible for matched federal grants to improve availability and quality of child care. $500 million over 5 years to provide 25% tax credit to employers for operating on-site child care centers, contracting for off-site child care, contributing to the costs of accreditation, or operating resource and referral systems.	Allows stay-at-home parents with children under age one to claim a portion of the DCTC, based upon imputed expenses of $90/month (maximum credit $540). Incomes of up to $30,000 eligible for 50% credit. Above $30,000 -- credit reduced by one percentage point for each $800 above $30,000 (but not below zero). Eligibility limited to $70,000.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1998

The Honorable Ellen Tauscher
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tauscher:

Thank you for your letter detailing the priorities of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues on child care. The Women's Caucus has a long history of commitment to these issues, and we very much appreciate your advice.

You highlighted three important issues: the emotional and cognitive development of infants and children; the cost and identification of quality child care; and health and safety. As you know, the President's child care proposal invests $21.3 billion over five years to help families pay for child care, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning.

The President has proposed to create a fund to support local efforts to enhance early learning through such activities as health linkages, improved training in childhood development, family day care networks, and lower staff-to-child ratios. The President also shares your commitment to making child care more affordable and has proposed increasing the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which will double to more than two million the number of children who receive subsidies by the year 2003. He has also proposed to increase tax credits for three million working families to help them pay for child care, and provide a new tax credit for businesses that offer child care services for their employees. Finally, the President proposed the Standards Enforcement Fund, which will support the enforcement of state child care health and safety standards.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. The President believes that by continuing to work together on a bipartisan basis and by taking the best proposals from both sides of the aisle, we will achieve legislation that helps Americans fulfill their responsibilities as workers, and even more important, as parents.

Sincerely,

Bruce Reed
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy

ELLEN -
I REALLY HOPE WE CAN GET SOMETHING DONE ON THIS.
SEE YOU AT THE PLAYGROUND!

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1998

The Honorable Nancy L. Johnson
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter detailing the priorities of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues on child care. The Women's Caucus has a long history of commitment to these issues, and we very much appreciate your advice.

You highlighted three important issues: the emotional and cognitive development of infants and children; the cost and identification of quality child care; and health and safety. As you know, the President's child care proposal invests $21.3 billion over five years to help families pay for child care, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning.

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Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. The President believes that by continuing to work together on a bipartisan basis and by taking the best proposals from both sides of the aisle, we will achieve legislation that helps Americans fulfill their responsibilities as workers, and even more important, as parents.

Sincerely,

Bruce Reed
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1998

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Norton:

Thank you for your letter detailing the priorities of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues on child care. The Women's Caucus has a long history of commitment to these issues, and we very much appreciate your advice.

You highlighted three important issues: the emotional and cognitive development of infants and children; the cost and identification of quality child care; and health and safety. As you know, the President's child care proposal invests $21.3 billion over five years to help families pay for child care, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning.

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Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. The President believes that by continuing to work together on a bipartisan basis and by taking the best proposals from both sides of the aisle, we will achieve legislation that helps Americans fulfill their responsibilities as workers, and even more important, as parents.

Sincerely,

Bruce Reed
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1998

The Honorable Deborah Pryce
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pryce:

Thank you for your letter detailing the priorities of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues on child care. The Women's Caucus has a long history of commitment to these issues, and we very much appreciate your advice.

You highlighted three important issues: the emotional and cognitive development of infants and children; the cost and identification of quality child care; and health and safety. As you know, the President's child care proposal invests $21.3 billion over five years to help families pay for child care, improve the safety and quality of care, and promote early learning.

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Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. The President believes that by continuing to work together on a bipartisan basis and by taking the best proposals from both sides of the aisle, we will achieve legislation that helps Americans fulfill their responsibilities as workers, and even more important, as parents.

Sincerely,

Bruce Reed
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 14, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED
JENNIFER KLEIN

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President from Rep. Nancy L. Johnson (R-CT) and others.

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress. Please forward a copy of the response to Chris Walker, Office of Legislative Affairs.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 1997

JAN 5 - 2014?

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In the wake of the first White House Conference on Child Care, we would like to recognize your involvement in this critically important issue. The Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues has spent much of the last two decades focusing on issues of particular importance to women and families, such as child care. Research indicates that the quality of child care for young children has a significant impact on their cognitive development as well as their use of language. In this regard, our bi-partisan caucus recommends focusing on three critical areas in order to promote high-quality child care for our nation's working families:

Emotional and Cognitive Development of Infants and Toddlers:

A recent Carnegie Corporation study noted that the first three years of life are critical in the brain development of children, and that brain development is far more susceptible to adverse effects than had been realized earlier. An infant's early experiences play a critical role in shaping emotional and cognitive development. Quality child care, defined by positive care giving and language stimulation, are directly related to early cognitive and language development.

The Cost and identification of Quality Child Care:

A family's need for child care depends on numerous factors, including: marital status, work hours, occupation, economic self-sufficiency, tax liability and geographic location. The cost of high-quality child care is often prohibitive, ranging anywhere from $4,000 to $10,000 a year for full day child care for one child. Some parents may also require assistance in identifying qualified, accredited child care providers with whom they feel comfortable entrusting their child.

Health and Safety:

Many states have enacted minimum requirements for basic health and safety standards in child care. Such requirements include: ensuring that child care providers have first aid and CPR training; requiring that child care providers wash their hands before and after diapering and preparing food; and ensuring that minimum child-staff ratios are appropriate. We recognize the value of such health and safety standards.

On behalf of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, we invite you to work with us in making high quality child care a reality for all of our nation's working families. Together, we can ensure that this issue receives the high priority which it deserves.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Johnson

Nancy Johnson
Co-Chair, Women's Caucus

Eleanor H Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Co-Chair, Women's Caucus

Deborah Pryce
Co-Chair, Child Care Taskforce

Ellen Tauscher

Ellen Tauscher
Co-Chair, Child Care Taskforce

Major Pending Child Care Proposals
Summary of Initiatives that Target Training and Compensation

	Clinton Proposal	Kerry/Bond S. 1309	Jeffords/Dodd S. 1037; Gilman H.R. 2213	Kennedy S. 1492; DeLauro H.R. 3028
Supports training for *entry-level* workers	Offers training to providers in basic skills such as CPR and first aid.	Uses 10% of infant/toddler set-aside from proposed increase in CCDBG funds to support specialized training and family child care networks.	Provides tax credits and scholarships to providers to assist with training and education expenses.	Provides grants, fellowships, and loans for providers obtaining college degrees in early childhood education.
Supports increased compensation for *entry-level* workers	Provides for increased wages to providers who commit to staying in the field at least one year after receiving financial assistance from the Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund.			Creates a quality fund to reward states that implement quality improvement strategies including training linked with increased wages for both entry-level and experienced providers.
Supports professional development for *experienced, well-trained* workers	Creates support networks for family child care providers.	Uses 10% of infant/toddler set-aside from proposed increase in CCDBG funds to support specialized training and family child care networks.	Provides for a technology based training/satellite network to assist providers becoming credentialed or accredited.	Funds development of family child care networks. Supports professional development through in-service training.
Supports retention strategies for *experienced, well-trained* workers			Funds state subsidy programs to increase compensation of credentialed providers.	Creates a quality fund to reward states that implement quality improvement strategies including training linked with increased wages for both entry-level and experienced providers.
Supports increased reimbursement rates			Increases reimbursement rates for child care services for infants and children with special needs. Increases reimbursement rates for accredited or credentialed care.	Provides incentives for states to implement quality improvements such as higher reimbursement rates for accredited and infant care.
Supports loan assumption/ scholarship programs	Establishes Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund for students working toward a child care credential.		Extends Perkins and Stafford loan forgiveness to child care workers who earn a certificate or degree in early childhood education or child development.	
Improves standards and support accreditation	Early Learning Fund provides grants to communities to support programs to become accredited and meet licensing standards; and reduce group size and improve staff-child ratios. Funds state efforts to improve licensing systems and enforce health and safety standards.		Provides financial support for providers to become licensed or accredited. Requires all federal child care centers to meet state licensing standards and achieve accreditation within 3 years.	Provides incentives for states to implement quality improvements such as higher reimbursement rates for accredited and infant care, improved licensing standards and enforcement, and improve staff-child ratios.
Supports mentor or apprenticeship programs	Expands the Department of Labor's Child Care Apprenticeship Program to fund the training of child care providers.			

Center for the Child Care Workforce
March 1998

Compiled from several sources including the Children's Defense Fund and the National Association for the Education of Young Children

Other Child Care Bills that Address Training and/or Compensation

	DeWine/Wellstone S. 1029	Dodd S. 1610
Quality	Provides loan forgiveness of up to 15% of total education loan per year for college graduates working as child care providers.	Provides CCDBG quality improvement grants for states to improve staff-child ratios, improve licensing standards and enforcement, pay higher reimbursement rates for infant or special needs care, create support networks for family child care providers, increase funding for training and education of providers, improve compensation of providers, or assist providers in becoming licensed or accredited.

Center for the Child Care Workforce
March 1998

Compiled from several sources including the Children's Defense Fund and the National Association for the Education of Young Children

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 1998

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

Dear Newt:

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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 H Norton

Sue Kelly — Carolyn B. Maloney

Connie Morella — Ellen Tauscher

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

SUBCOMMITTEE
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

March 31, 1998

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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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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 1998

The Honorable Bill Archer
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to urge you to bring comprehensive child care legislation before the Ways and Means Committee as soon as possible. As you know, President Clinton proposed an initiative to improve the quality, safety and affordability of child care nearly three months ago and many Members also have legislative proposals pending before the Committee. However, the Committee has yet to hold even a single hearing on this issue which every day impacts the safety and development of our children and the economic security of millions of working Americans.

The facts on child care speak for themselves. In the nearly 18 million American families with children under the age of six, 65% of their mothers work. Furthermore, even in families where the mother is *not* in the workforce, 32% of preschool children participate in some type of child care or early education program. These statistics clearly illustrate the growing need for quality child care, but they do not depict the daily struggle millions of American families have in paying for day care. For middle-income families with children under the age of two, child care now represents their third largest expense, surpassed only by housing and transportation. The picture for low-income families is even bleaker: those that paid for care for children under the age of five lost 25% of their income to child care expenses. And finally, let us not forget the scientific evidence illustrating that the *quality* of day care will have a direct impact on a child's intellectual growth and future ability.

For all of these reasons, we believe the Ways and Means Committee should consider comprehensive child care legislation before the end of this legislative session. We look forward to your reply to this letter and to working with you to develop a proposal that will help American families meet the dual challenges of working and raising a family.

Sincerely,

Barbara B. Kennelly
BARBARA B. KENNELLY
Member of Congress

SANDER LEVIN
Member of Congress

The Honorable Bill Archer
Page 2

Charles B. Rangel
CHARLES RANGEL
Member of Congress

Robert T. Matsui
ROBERT MATSUI
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress

Ben Cardin
BENJAMIN CARDIN
Member of Congress

Karen L. Thurman
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William J. Coyne
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MICHAEL McNULTY
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Richard E. Neal
RICHARD NEAL
Member of Congress

John Lewis
JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress

Pete Stark
PETE STARK
Member of Congress

Xavier Becerra
XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress

John Tanner
JOHN TANNER
Member of Congress

DATE: 3-31-98

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
200 INDEPENDENCE AVE., SW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

PHONE: (202) 690-6311 FAX: (202) 690-8425

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HUMAN SERVICES LEGISLATION
ROOM 413 H HUMPHREY BUILDING

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REMARKS:

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 1998

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Washington, D.C. 20515

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ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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House of Representatives
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Women's Caucus and Lifetime Television
Child Care Priorities Press Conference**

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MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY
JULY 28, 1998

Despite Political Appeal, Childcare Legislation Fades

EMPLOYMENT

BEFORE MANAGED CARE and tobacco legislation dominated the agenda, President Clinton and members of both parties touted child care as one of the year's legislative priorities — and thought it would prove to be a potent political issue. But after seven months of no movement in either chamber, comprehensive childcare legislation is all but dead for the year, aides said Monday. Helping parents meet childcare needs was a leading theme in Clinton's State of the Union speech in January. Republicans also jumped on the childcare issue as a way to tout their "family values" agenda and soften the edges of welfare reform.

Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Chafee and **Senate Judiciary Chairman Hatch** unveiled a childcare plan the morning after Clinton's speech. Shortly thereafter, **Senate Republican Policy Committee Chairman Larry Craig** of Idaho felt compelled to talk about child care as part of the GOP Saturday radio response to Clinton. Craig told reporters a Senate GOP leadership childcare plan would be unveiled in a matter of weeks. It never happened. **Sen. Dan Coats**, R-Ind., held a childcare symposium, and Senate budget leaders carved out $9 billion over five years in the budget resolution for a childcare initiative.

House Democrats unveiled their own plan this summer, backed by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

But the issue has yet to gain trac- continued on page 8

Child Care

Continued from page 1

tion among either policy makers or the public.

Unlike health care, childcare costs have remained relatively stable. States are taking the initiative to improve child care as they implement welfare reform.

And families lacking paid child care are finding other means to have relatives or friends take care of their children while they work.

Aides said child care never shows up in the polls as a primary issue about which the public is concerned or demands action. "People are not suffering," said one GOP aide, adding, "There is no crisis."

Another aide said, "They won't do something until they feel the urgency."

Clinton never followed up his State of the Union speech with a big push on child care, complained Republican advocates of childcare legislation.

"If the White House doesn't consider this a priority, then there's no reason to make an effort on this end," said one GOP aide whose boss supports an approach similar to Clinton's.

House Democrats at a news conference this summer claimed child care would be one of their primary policy and campaign initiatives.

But Democrats have done nothing since the news conference to push the issue. House Democrats and the first lady's office did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Republicans said a tax bill is the only real potential vehicle to revive childcare initiatives this year. Such an initiative would be a tax cut for young children, whether at home or in paid day care.

But Clinton and Republicans like Chafee and Hatch want grants in addition to a small tax break to reach low income people. And any tax break would likely be targeted to a larger purpose like the so-called marriage penalty, rather than child care, aides said.

— *BY MATTHEW MORRISSEY*

CC: Neera
Jen
Nicole ✓
From: Janet

IRS Conferees Optimistic On Quickly Reaching Accord

TAXES

Members of the conference committee on IRS reform legislation are scheduled to meet this afternoon at 4 p.m. amid optimism they can work out their differences quickly. "We will work it out by the end of the month," said **Senate Judiciary Chairman Hatch**.

Among the issues remaining is the different level of so-called innocent spouse relief provided in the two bills. The Senate bill makes it easier to escape tax liability incurred largely by one's spouse, and **Sen. Charles Grassley**, R-Iowa, has insisted that version must be accepted.

"We cannot weaken the innocent spouse protection. The public understands that," he said. "If we weaken that it will be seen as a defeat for taxpayers."

Grassley also affirmed his support for having a member of the Treasury Department employees union on an oversight board the legislation would create.

Both the House and Senate bills provide for union representation, but a majority of the conferees oppose the provision — including **Senate Finance Chairman Roth**.

Despite possible efforts by **Senate Majority Leader Lott** to alter that provision in conference, Roth said he would support the Senate bill.

Congressional aides have said it is increasingly unlikely conferees would outright reverse the position taken by both chambers. It is possible, however, that the rights and responsibilities of the union representative could be the subject of discussions for the conferees.

"The House members feel strongly that there should be a union person on the board," Grassley said. "I may be the only senator who agrees, but it will have to be done."

Hatch, who is regarded as a swing vote on the provision, acknowledged that "this is still a problem."

Grassley also predicted the Senate would accept the House position on guidelines on interaction between the Congress and the IRS when new laws are being considered by Congress.

Rep. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, who was the lead sponsor of the bill in the House, has argued the provision would help make clear when proposed tax laws would be difficult to administer or have unintended consequences for taxpayers.

The conference meeting today is expected to feature only opening statements.

— *By Stephen Norton*

House Dems Offer Plan To Improve Access To Child Care

EMPLOYMENT

House Democrats Tuesday introduced their plan to increase access to child care with tax incentives and higher funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant.

Democrats said they believe the issue is a winner for them among women and families, and plan to try to force a vote later this year. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and HHS Secretary Shalala, appearing at a news conference, said President Clinton backs the House Democratic plan — although it contains some additions to his own plan released earlier this year.

Shalala complimented the House Democrats' plan as being "more comprehensive," in part because the childcare benefits also are extended to stay-at-home parents.

Rep. Barbara Kennelly, D-Conn., who is running for governor this year, said at the news conference, "This is very definitely a campaign issue" if Republicans will not help pass a childcare plan this year.

The bill would increase the Dependent Care Tax Credit for all families with less than $60,000 in annual income. The DCTC would be a 50 percent credit for families with less than $30,000 in income, and phase down to a 20 percent credit for families earning more than $60,000.

Democrats said that would provide an average tax cut of $330 for the three million eligible families. The provision would cost $5.1 billion over five years.

There also would be a similar credit for stay-at-home parents with children under four years of age, costing $3.5 billion over five years. In addition, the bill would prohibit the alternative minimum tax from reducing the tax credit.

The bill would establish a tax credit for businesses that build or expand their own childcare services for their employees. The credit would cover 25 percent of costs, but may not exceed $150,000 a year.

The provision would cost $500 million over five years. Another $75 million would be spent on grants to business consortia to improve childcare access.

The measure would spend $800 million to expand federal funding for after-school programs.

To increase the quality of child care, the bill would spend $3 billion on training childcare teachers, reducing child-staff ratios, comprehensive background checks on providers and making available more services for children with special needs.

Democrats would spend $500 million to fund state efforts to enforce childcare licensing and safety standards. Another $250 million would be spent over five years on 50,000 scholarships for training childcare providers.

The total price tag of the bill is $23.3 billion over five years, which Democrats said would come from part of the tobacco bill or "cutting corporate tax loopholes."

Republicans in the Senate budget resolution set aside $9 billion for a childcare initiative, but no proposal has gained much traction there.

— *By Matthew Morrissey*

Bankruptcy

Continued from page 1

mittee considered several versions of amendments that would try to address the situation, and settled on one by **House Judiciary Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee Chairman George Gekas**, R-Pa., and **Reps. Bill McCollum**, R-Fla., and **Lamar Smith**, R-Texas, that would prohibit the conversion of nonexempt assets into a protected homestead within one year of filing for bankruptcy.

Frost, however, said Texas' state office in Washington — which is controlled by GOP Gov. George Bush — told him that only an amendment from **Rep. Chet Edwards**, D-Texas, is acceptable.

The floor fight is expected to be heated because many Democrats strongly object to the bill. They will be allowed to vote on a full substitute sponsored by **Rep. Jerrold Nadler**, D-N.Y. — but that is expected to fail.

Instead, the final battle will come in conference later this summer, because the Senate version is substantially different from the House bill.

The House proposal uses a formula to determine if a bankrupt debtor can use Chapter 7, under which most debts are wiped away, or Chapter 13, which requires a repayment plan.

The Senate bill simply allows creditors to try to get a court to move a debtor from Chapter 7 to Chapter 13. The Senate is not likely to take up its bill until July.

— *By Adam Rappaport*

Senate GOP Conservatives Threaten Budget Over Tax Cut

BUDGET

Conservative Republican senators are vowing to vote against any budget conference report that contains a tax cut of less than $101 billion — an effort that could deny Senate GOP leaders the votes necessary to pass a budget.

But while conservatives are pressing **Senate Majority Leader Lott** to follow a deal they believe they had with him, **Senate Budget Chairman Domenici** warned that for any budget to pass, GOP leaders may have to "undo" some deals that have already been made.

The conservatives Tuesday urged Lott to insist that Senate budget conferees agree to the House-passed tax cut figure, contending that was what Lott agreed to in April.

Meanwhile, Domenici cast some doubt Tuesday about whether the House and Senate will be able to reach a conference deal at all, citing the differences between his plan and the one developed by **House Budget Chairman Kasich**.

"Look, we're pretty far apart, so there's always a question," Domenici said, adding he has no idea when or how a budget deal will be reached.

While Lott cut his deal with conservatives in the Senate, House Republican leaders assured moderates that ultimately the spending cuts and the tax cut will be smaller than the House-passed version. And conservative House Republicans said they would insist on a $100 billion tax cut.

Domenici made it clear that no budget can pass if all the side deals are maintained. "You've got to undo some things you've agreed to," Domenici said.

But whatever deal may be reached must conform to the conservatives' understanding of a deal they had with Lott in exchange for their support of the budget resolution.

In April, five conservative Republican senators — **Sens. Rod Grams** of Minnesota, **John Ashcroft** of Missouri, **Robert Smith** of New Hampshire, **Sam Brownback** of Kansas and **James Inhofe** of Oklahoma — said they would withhold crucial votes for the budget because they were unhappy with the $30 billion tax cut called for in the resolution.

"In response to our concerns, you and other members of the Senate leadership, agreed to a series of promises regarding the pending budget resolution conference," the conservatives said in a draft of a letter to Lott.

Since the letter had not been signed or sent late in the day, it was unclear Tuesday how many senators intended to sign it.

"Specifically, you promised that the Senate delegation would accept the larger of the tax cuts contained in the House and Senate budget resolutions," they said in the letter, adding that Lott also promised to push for a reconciliation bill and to make elimination of the so-called marriage penalty a top priority.

The senators said they consider Lott a "man of your word," but that recent reports have circulated that he may be willing to accept a tax cut of between $60 billion and $70 billion.

Indeed, Lott used that figure during a news conference Monday. "Given your pledge of last April, we expect the Senate delegation to request and accept no less than $101 billion in tax cuts over the next five years," the conservatives said in their letter.

"Just as we pledged our votes to help pass the Senate budget resolution, we pledge today that we will oppose the budget conference report if it does not reflect the assurances you made last April," the letter added.

Grams told *CongressDaily* the conservatives intend to "be as tough as we were before." Ashcroft added, "I think [Lott] needs to have his recollection refreshed." He said he maintained notes of their negotiating sessions, and that the Republican leaders were clear about their intentions.

A Lott spokeswoman said the majority leader plans to discuss the issue with his conservative colleagues.

Meanwhile, Domenici was unencouraging about the prospects of reaching a budget deal. "I don't have any idea on it," he said when asked how a conference may progress. Then asked what the size of a tax cut is likely to be, the chairman said, "I have no idea." Finally, asked what timetable he is following, Domenici said, "I don't have one."

Domenici made clear that he remains unhappy with the House-passed budget plan. "I don't think any more about it than I did before," Domenici said. He has referred to the House plan as a "mockery."

— *By David Baumann*

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NEWS RELEASE
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DELAURO INTRODUCES EARLY LEARNING AND OPPORTUNITY ACT
Ground-Breaking Brain Research Spurs Public Policy Changes

WASHINGTON -- Today, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-Ct) introduced comprehensive legislation to help America's children get a good start in life, particularly in the critical early years from birth to age three.

DeLauro's announcement comes at a time when the nation is increasingly focused on the importance of development during a child's first three years. The President and Mrs. Clinton are hosting a White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning, which DeLauro is scheduled to attend. This past Monday, DeLauro brought together scholars and educators at Yale University in her district for a forum on new research about how the brain develops. The forum examined the implications of this research for early childhood development and education.

"The exciting research going on at Yale and other facilities around the nation has proven what parents and grandparents have long suspected -- that the first few years of life are a critical time for intellectual, emotional, and social development. We know that unhealthy development contributes to school failure, teenage pregnancy, and juvenile delinquency later in life. My bill would give parents the tools they need to make the most of these critical years," said DeLauro.

Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) joined DeLauro as an original co-sponsor of the legislation. The DeLauro-Hoyer-McGovern bill would improve the quality and availability of care for children under the age of three, and improve the coordination and effectiveness of family support services to parents with children in that age group.

"This bill provides necessary fuel to innovate and streamline programs and services for children under three. There is mounting evidence that there is no greater return on an

(more)

investment that the resources devoted to our nation's youngest children. The bill also helps focus the nation on the incredibly vital issues of early childhood development. As we enter the 21st century, we must increase our commitment to enhancing and improving the education and general care of our nation's children. By investing wisely today, we will reap huge return down the road," said Hoyer.

"If we neglect the developmental and educational needs of young children, we are turning our backs on our future," stated McGovern. "Increasing investment in Head Start, expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act, and improving the quality and availability of child care and family support services will help ensure that young children are healthy, and that they mature to their fullest potential."

The DeLauro-Hoyer-McGovern legislation will address these problems in three crucial ways. It will:

o Create a flexible competitive state grant to:

  - improve the quality and availability of care for children under the age of three;

  - improve the quality and availability of support services to families with children aged zero to three;

  - encourage states to improve coordination of existing services to these families to reduce duplication and improve their efficiency.

o Amend the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover companies with more than 20 employees. This will extend parental leave privileges to more than 13 million additional working women.

o Increase funding for Head Start and, over four years, more than double funds available for the Early Start program which provides education, health, nutrition and parent support services to children aged zero to three.

"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," stated DeLauro. "I want to make sure that all of America's children are given the care they need in their first years of life to prepare them to grow up to be healthy, productive and responsible members of society."

-30-

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 shows 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.

An early-childhood education for Washington

THOMAS OLIPHANT

WASHINGTON

'We know what works," Hillary Rodham Clinton was saying the other day. "We have to intervene with overstressed parents, but we don't have any systematic way to do it."

True on the first point. True on the second. But not entirely true on Mrs. Clinton's third point about early-childhood development – the next frontier in education, freshly fertilized with breakthrough science on the first three years of life. There is a way; what's at issue is will.

At last week's stunning White House gathering to give broader dissemination to the increasingly voluminous body of research showing how much of the brain's all-important wiring develops in the first few years after birth, there were two critical words missing: Rosa DeLauro.

The Connecticut congresswoman, a patron saint to working families of modest means, is blessed by the presence in her state of the world-renowned Child Study Center at Yale, where Hillary Rodham hung out 26 years ago when she met a fellow law student named Bill Clinton.

Well before last week's conference, DeLauro was working to spread the word about the latest research. But she has also fashioned the first legislative proposal to take full advantage of its momentous implications for those young, struggling families on which it can have the most impact.

The last presidential election at least settled the argument that it takes a village. But science shows that it also takes DeLauro's Early Learning and Opportunity Act.

For the drop-in-the-bucket sum of $1.8 billion over the next five years, states could get a powerful boost to vastly improve and focus their efforts to help kids under the age of 3 and parents with information, better day care, and more family-friendly values.

To pay for the core of her proposal, DeLauro suggests closing just one of the scores of loopholes that subsidize the comfortable who have good lobbyists – in this case the tax loophole that encourages the closing of plants and the moving of jobs.

The bill would also take a big step in mandating territory by dropping to 20 workers from the current 50 the employer-size exemption in the Family and Medical Leave Act. All this would do is extend vital, enabling rights to 13 million more working women. Before the chorus of business lobbyist whining starts, it helps to remember that this is the only industrialized country in the world without a paid maternity leave law, which some 30 developing countries have as well.

Finally, the DeLauro proposal would significantly expand Head Start and the fledgling Early Start program for infants and toddlers. Head Start, aimed at preschoolers from needy families but still shamefully reaching less than half the 4-year-olds eligible, would get $600 million more a year until it reached $6.7 billion five years hence.

And Early Start – which combines learning, health, nutrition, and parent education for science's newest focus group – would get a rising percentage of the Head Start authorization – reaching 9 percent, or $600 million, in 2002, a doubling of the money and a major expansion in service to nearly 50,000 kids. Every one of those dollars spent, as a report for the conference from the President's Council of Economic Advisers made clear, will eventually earn even more dollars from more productive citizens and avoid still more dollars spent to deal with wrecked lives.

In scandal-crazed, balanced-budget-fixated Washington, the extent of the progress already made in recent years is unappreciated. Since 1992, for example, Head Start has expanded by more than 40 percent, and nearly 2 million more people now benefit from the literally life-saving Women, Infants, and Children program of nutrition aid and education.

Not enough laurels to rest on, however. Last week's bully pulpit work – it went out to more than 100 sites via satellite in 37 states – was significant. And the information, above all its magnificent simplicity, can help millions of parents without another dime of government money.

However, one-fourth of the kids under age 3 live in poverty, more than half the mothers of kids under age 1 work, 5 million kids under 3 are cared for by others while their parents work, and welfare reform alone will increase these populations considerably in coming years.

For a baby facing tall hurdles, long-term policy goals are not particularly helpful. As Mrs. Clinton herself noted, quoting a Chilean poet, "To him, we cannot say tomorrow; his name is today. We have known this instinctively, even poetically; now we know it scientifically."

But she should have added that thanks to Rosa DeLauro there is a systematic, decentralized way to act on this knowledge.

Thomas Oliphant is a Globe columnist.