

116TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 7909

To facilitate access to child care services safely and securely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 31, 2020

Ms. Finkenauer (for herself and Mr. Guthrie) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To facilitate access to child care services safely and securely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Ensuring Children and
- 5 Child Care Workers Are Safe Act of 2020".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress finds the following:
- 8 (1) Child care is an essential service that sup-
- 9 ports children's early development and allows par-
- ents to work.

- 1 (2) At least 1 out of 2 child care providers 2 closed at some point during the COVID-19 pan-3 demic, and 2 out of 5 face the possibility of perma-4 nent closure.
 - (3) The lack of access to child care services can prevent parents from returning to work and can prevent children from accessing critical services, including meals.
 - (4) Ensuring the safe re-opening and operation of child care service settings during periods of community transmission of COVID-19 will require child care providers to adopt new measures and practices in order to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission.
 - (5) Such measures and practices must ensure the safety of children as well as child care workers, who may be at high risk of infection.
 - (6) Ensuring that working families have access to safe child care service options is critical to supporting young children's development and to returning the economy back to its pre-pandemic levels.
- 22 SEC. 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE SAFE PROVISION
- 23 OF CHILD CARE SERVICES.
- 24 (a) Technical Assistance to States.—

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1	(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
2	Human Services (in this Act referred to as the Sec-
3	retary), in consultation with the Director of the Cen-
4	ters for Disease Control and Prevention, shall pro-
5	vide technical assistance to States, Indian Tribes,
6	and tribal organizations related to the safe provision
7	of child care services while there is community
8	transmission of COVID-19. Such technical assist-
9	ance shall include information about—
10	(A) the prevention of COVID-19 trans-
11	mission in child care provider settings, includ-
12	ing the use of face masks and other personal
13	protective equipment in such settings,
14	(B) training and professional development
15	on health and safety practices related to the
16	prevention of COVID-19 transmission in child
17	care provider settings,
18	(C) the acquisition and use of personal
19	protective equipment, and

- protective equipment, and
- (D) modifications of child care provider settings and services to prevent COVID-19 transmission, such as optimal staff-to-child ratios across such settings and the use of mental health supports.

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1	(2) Materials.—As part of such technical as-
2	sistance efforts, the Secretary shall—
3	(A) publish educational materials related
4	to the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in
5	child care provider settings, including by post-
6	ing such materials on a website,
7	(B) update any such materials as nec-
8	essary to reflect advancements in the science of
9	COVID-19, and
10	(C) provide a mechanism through which
11	States may exchange best practices relating to
12	the safe operation of child care providers.
13	(b) Technical Assistance to Child Care Pro-
14	VIDERS.—
15	(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
16	grants to lead agencies designated under section
17	658D(a) of the Child Care and Development Block
18	Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858b(a)) to provide
19	guidance, technical assistance, and support to child
20	care providers, either directly or through resource
21	and referral agencies or staffed family child care
22	networks, regarding the safe operation of child care
23	providers while there is community transmission of
24	COVID-19.

- (2) Reservation.—The Secretary shall reserve 2.75 percent of funds appropriated to carry out this section to make payments to Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, or consortia of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations.
 - (3) Allotments.—From amounts appropriated to carry out this section and not reserved under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall allot to Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to the remaining States amounts in accordance with subsections (a)(1) and subsection (b) of section 658O of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m), except that none of such remaining States shall receive an allotment of less than \$10,000.
 - (4) REQUIREMENTS.—Each lead agency that receives a grant under this section shall ensure that—
 - (A) guidance, technical assistance, and support are available to child care providers regardless of such providers' settings, sizes, or administrative capacities, and
- 24 (B) guidance, technical assistance, and 25 support are available in the languages most

- 1 commonly spoken in the State, Indian Tribe, or 2 Tribal organization.
- 4 after funds are appropriated to carry out this Act, the Sec-

(c) Report to Congress.—Not later than 60 days

- 5 retary shall provide to the Committee on Education and
- 6 Labor of the House of Representatives and to the Com-
- 7 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the
- 8 Senate a report that includes—

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- 9 (1) recommendations for how to ensure the safe 10 provision of child care services while there is commu-11 nity transmission of COVID-19, including rec-12 ommendations that address each of the issues de-13 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of sub-14 section (a)(1),
 - (2) recommendations for how to ensure the supply of child care services meets demand during periods when providers implement the recommendations described in paragraph (1), including whether it will be necessary to expand the number of child care providers to meet such demand and, if so, recommendations for how to expand the number of child care providers, and
 - (3) the estimated cost of implementing the recommendations described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

1 SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

- 2 The terms "State", "Indian Tribe", and "Tribal or-
- 3 ganization" have the meanings given such terms in section
- 4 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act
- 5 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

6 SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- 7 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
- 8 this Act, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2020. Funds appro-
- 9 priated to carry out this Act shall remain available until
- 10 expended.

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