



## **Current Federal Early Learning Initiatives**

*Compiled by Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP*

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### **To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 – HR. 1405**

This bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 by allowing Head Start teachers the same above-the-line deduction for supplies that is provided for elementary and secondary school teachers. A teacher in a Head Start program with at least 700 hours during a school year would essentially receive a tax deduction for the purposes of educational supplies.

*Sponsor: Rep. Wilson, Charles [OH]*

*Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means*

### **Early Support for Families Act**

House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support Chairman Jim McDermott (D-WA) and Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL) and Todd Platts (R-PA) introduced H.R. 2667, the Early Support for Families Act. The bill would provide \$2 billion in mandatory funding to states to create and expand early childhood home visitation programs.

*Sponsors: Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) and Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA)*

### **Child Care Facilities Financing Act of 2009 – HR. 1685**

This bill would provide the acquisition, construction, and improvement of childcare facilities. It would authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award competitive grants, mostly towards low-income areas, towards technical and financial assistance to eligible childcare providers to pay the costs of acquisition, construction, or improvement of child care facilities or equipment, or for technical assistance to such providers to help them undertake facilities improvement and expansion.

*Sponsor: Rep. McCarthy [NY]*

*Status: Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor*

### **Early Education Act of 2009 – S. 206**

This bill would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and establish a program to help States expand the education system to include at least one year of early education prior to the year a child enters kindergarten.

*Sponsor: Sen. Barbara Boxer [CA]*

*Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

### **Education Begins at Home Act – S.244, HR. 2205**

This bill would be to expand home visitation programs.

*Sponsor: Sen. Patty Murray (WA), Sen. Bond, Christopher [MO], Rep. Davis, Danny*

*Status: HR.2205 – Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and Committee on Armed Services for a period as to be determined by the Speaker.*

*S. 244 – Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

### **Family Tax Relief Act of 2009**

This legislation will make quality child care more accessible and affordable for our nation's working families by increasing the size of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and making it refundable.

### **Pre-K Act – HR. 702**

The Pre-K Act would encourage early education programs to employ lead teachers and teacher's aides to have baccalaureate and associate degrees in early childhood education. Funding would contribute to obtaining degrees, increase teacher compensation, and provide training and mentoring programs for new directors, teachers, and staff.

Makes money available for head start

*Sponsor: Rep. Hirono, Mazie [HI]*

*Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor*

### **Prepare All Kids Act – S. 839, HR. 2184**

To be administered under the Department of Education, this bill would provide funding towards high-quality pre-kindergarten, community-based providers, and extend full-day and year-round programs. With a focus on children from low-income families and children with special needs, this bill would also work in collaboration between the programs to monitor the quality of professional development and improvement. To hold programs like Head Start accountable, pre-k involvement in State Advisory Councils on Early Childhood Education would be required.

*Sponsor: Rep. Maloney, Carolyn [NY], Sen. Casey, Robert [PA]*

*Status: HR. 2184 – Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor*

*S.839 – Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

### **Ready to Learn Act – S. 240**

This bill provides competitive grants to states to improve quality and access to pre-kindergarten to all four year olds. Its focus would be to serve children from low-income families, follow state standards, have qualified teachers with baccalaureate degrees, and decrease teacher-child ratios.

*Sponsor: Sen. Murray, Patty [WA]*

*Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.*

### **Rural Early Education Act – HR. 1755**

The goal of this legislation is to improve access to high-quality early childhood education in rural communities for children age three through five. States would receive incentive grants to establish, enhance, or expand pre-k programs. Subgrant funding would be used towards hiring competent assistant teachers, provide teacher training, health screening/referrals, and/or provide resources for disabled and limited English proficient children. Improving the quality of programs in rural areas as well as require programs to have smaller class sizes, follow early learning standards, and provide nutritional meals is also included. Funds would provide relief for student loans and other incentives for teachers after receiving a BA in ECE. Funding may be used to form partnerships with local Head Start agencies to pay for needed services for students not eligible for Head Start.

*Sponsors: Rep. Hare, Phil [IL]*

*Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor*

### **Starting Early, Starting Right Act – S. 1000**

Starting Early, Starting Right would create easier access for quality early learning and child care services, primarily for low-income working families. This bill would work towards training improvement and accountability for these programs. In order to ensure that that all children are gaining access to quality education, developing models of improvement and quality rating scales would also be improved. This bill would also place emphasis towards infant/toddler programs.

*Sponsor: Sen. Bob Casey [PA], Sen. Blanche Lincoln [AR]*

*Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.*

### **Universal Prekindergarten Act – HR. 555**

This would assist States to establish a universal prekindergarten program and ensure that all children age three through five will have access to high quality, full-day, full calendar year pre-k education. 5% of the grant would be set aside for professional development activities. Like the Ready to Learn Act, this bill would require matching grants to states.

*Sponsor: Rep. Kucinich, Dennis [OH]*

*Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor*

### **H.R.2166**

Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to include Head Start agencies in the universal support program, which makes them eligible for discounts for advanced telecommunications services.

*Sponsor: Rep Cuellar, Henry [TX-28] (introduced 4/29/2009) cosponsors (None)*

*Latest Major Action: 4/29/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.*

### **H.R.1662**

Amends the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require child care providers to provide to parents information regarding whether such providers carry current liability insurance.

*Sponsor: Rep Barrow, John [GA-12] (introduced 3/23/2009)*

*Latest Major Action: 6/3/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.*