

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1963

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to
modify certain State uses of funds.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2021

Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. ARMSTRONG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant
Act of 1990 to modify certain State uses of funds.

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 “Child Care Choices
5 Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION AND PLAN.**

7 Section 658E(c) of the Child Care and Development
8 Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858e(c)) is amend-
9 ed—

1 (1) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
3 serting the following:

4 “(A) PRIORITIZATION OF CHILD CARE
5 CERTIFICATES.—Provide assurances that—

6 “(i) in using funding made available
7 to a State pursuant to this subchapter, the
8 State shall prioritize the availability of
9 child care certificates (as defined in section
10 658P(2)) for child care services over other
11 payment methods, such as grants or con-
12 tracts;

13 “(ii) in cases in which a parent choos-
14 es to enroll such child with a child care
15 provider that has a grant or contract for
16 the provision of child care services, the
17 child will be enrolled with the eligible pro-
18 vider selected by the parent to the max-
19 imum extent practicable; and

20 “(iii) in cases in which a parent
21 chooses to receive a child care certificate,
22 the certificate shall be of a value commensurate with the subsidy value of child care
23 services provided if the child were enrolled
24 with a child care provider that has a grant
25

1 or contract for the provision of child care
2 services.”,

3 (B) in subparagraph (M) by inserting “in
4 accordance with subparagraph (E)(c)(2)(A)(i)”
5 after “strategies”, and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(W) PRIORITIZATION OF CHILD CARE
8 CERTIFICATES.—The plan shall provide assur-
9 ances and describe how the State prioritizes the
10 use of child care certificates (as defined in sec-
11 tion 658P(2)) for child care services for which
12 financial assistance is provided under this sub-
13 chapter in preference to other payment methods
14 such as grants, contracts, or cash.”, and

15 (2) in paragraph (4)(C), by adding at the end
16 the following:

17 “(iii) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN DIF-
18 FERENT RATES.—When setting differential
19 rates on the basis of child care quality,
20 States are prohibited from using type of
21 child care (such as family child care or
22 center-based care) or type of provider
23 (such as nonprofit providers, for-profit pro-

- 1 viders, or faith-based providers) as the sole
- 2 differential factor.”.

