

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL (H.R. 1429) TO REAUTHORIZE THE HEAD START ACT, TO IMPROVE PROGRAM QUALITY, TO EXPAND ACCESS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MAY 1, 2007.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Ms. CASTOR, from the Committee on Rules,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Res. 348]

The Committee on Rules, having had under consideration House Resolution 348, by a non-record vote, report the same to the House with the recommendation that the resolution be adopted.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS OF THE RESOLUTION

The resolution provides for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1429) to reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes. The resolution provides for one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

The resolution waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except for those arising under clauses 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The resolution provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The resolution waives all points of order against the committee amendment except those arising under clauses 9 or 10 of rule XXI.

The resolution makes in order those amendments printed in this report and waives all points of order against such amendments except those arising under clauses 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The resolution provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Finally, the resolution permits the Chair, during consideration of the bill in the House, to postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker.

EXPLANATION OF WAIVERS

Although the rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, against the committee amendment, and against the amendments made in order (except for those arising under clauses

9 or 10 of rule XXI), the Committee is not aware of any points of order against consideration of the bill, against the committee amendment, or against the amendments made in order. The waivers of all points of order are prophylactic in nature.

COMMITTEE VOTES

The results of each record vote on an amendment or motion to report, together with the names of those voting for and against, are printed below:

Rules Committee record vote No. 139

Date: May 1, 2007.

Measure: H.R. 1429.

Motion By: Mr. Dreier.

Summary of Motion: To grant an open rule.

Results: Defeated 4 to 9.

Vote by Member: McGovern—Nay; Hastings (FL)—Nay; Matsui—Nay; Cardoza—Nay; Welch—Nay; Castor—Nay; Arcuri—Nay; Sutton—Nay; Dreier—Yea; Diaz-Balart—Yea; Hastings (WA)—Yea; Sessions—Yea; Slaughter—Nay.

Rules Committee record vote No. 140

Date: May 1, 2007.

Measure: H.R. 1429.

Motion By: Mr. Dreier.

Summary of Motion: To make in order and provide appropriate waivers for an amendment by Rep. King (IA) to require Head Start programs to teach English to children with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), except in Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Results: Defeated 4 to 9.

Vote by Member: McGovern—Nay; Hastings (FL)—Nay; Matsui—Nay; Cardoza—Nay; Welch—Nay; Castor—Nay; Arcuri—Nay; Sutton—Nay; Dreier—Yea; Diaz-Balart—Yea; Hastings (WA)—Yea; Sessions—Yea; Slaughter—Nay.

Rules Committee record vote No. 141

Date: May 1, 2007.

Measure: H.R. 1429.

Motion By: Mr. Diaz-Balart.

Summary of Motion: To make in order and provide appropriate waivers for an amendment by Rep. Putnam (FL) to specify that monitoring visits may be conducted as needed and without notice, rather than just monthly; establishes an additional review to ensure corrective actions have been taken; and further clarifies that if financial assistance is terminated or reduced, that except in emergency situations, they will receive written notice no later than 30 days before their funds are suspended, terminated, or reduced.

Results: Defeated 4 to 9.

Vote by Member: McGovern—Nay; Hastings (FL)—Nay; Matsui—Nay; Cardoza—Nay; Welch—Nay; Castor—Nay; Arcuri—Nay; Sutton—Nay; Dreier—Yea; Diaz-Balart—Yea; Hastings (WA)—Yea; Sessions—Yea; Slaughter—Nay.

Rules Committee record vote No. 142

Date: May 1, 2007.

Measure: H.R. 1429.

Motion By: Mr. Diaz-Balart.

Summary of Motion: To make in order and provide appropriate waivers for an amendment by Resident Commissioner Fortuño (PR) to ensure that (1) religious organizations that are participating in the Head Start program are allowed to take religion into account in their hiring practices and (2) religious organizations that are participating in the Head Start program are not discriminated against on the basis of their religious character and are not required to alter their form of governance or remove religious art, icons, or scripture or other symbols.

Results: Defeated 4 to 9.

Vote by Member: McGovern—Nay; Hastings (FL)—Nay; Matsui—Nay; Cardoza—Nay; Welch—Nay; Castor—Nay; Arcuri—Nay; Sutton—Nay; Dreier—Yea; Diaz-Balart—Yea; Hastings (WA)—Yea; Sessions—Yea; Slaughter—Nay.

Rules Committee record vote No. 143

Date: May 1, 2007.

Measure: H.R. 1429.

Motion By: Mr. Hastings (WA).

Summary of Motion: To make in order and provide appropriate waivers for an amendment by Rep. Musgrave (CO) to allow a for-profit agency that can demonstrate it can provide a higher level of services for the same number of Head Start children at a lower cost to keep a small portion of the administrative savings as profit.

Results: Defeated 4 to 9.

Vote by Member: McGovern—Nay; Hastings (FL)—Nay; Matsui—Nay; Cardoza—Nay; Welch—Nay; Castor—Nay; Arcuri—Nay; Sutton—Nay; Dreier—Yea; Diaz-Balart—Yea; Hastings (WA)—Yea; Sessions—Yea; Slaughter—Nay.

Rules Committee record vote No. 144

Date: May 1, 2007.

Measure: H.R. 1429.

Motion By: Mr. Hastings (WA).

Summary of Motion: To make in order and provide appropriate waivers for an amendment by Rep. Musgrave (CO) to limit to 10 percent the enrollment of families who do not meet the low-income criteria.

Results: Defeated 4 to 9.

Vote by Member: McGovern—Nay; Hastings (FL)—Nay; Matsui—Nay; Cardoza—Nay; Welch—Nay; Castor—Nay; Arcuri—Nay; Sutton—Nay; Dreier—Yea; Diaz-Balart—Yea; Hastings (WA)—Yea; Sessions—Yea; Slaughter—Nay.

Rules Committee record vote No. 145

Date: May 1, 2007.

Measure: H.R. 1429.

Motion By: Mr. Sessions.

Summary of Motion: To make in order and provide appropriate waivers for an amendment by Rep. Price (GA) to make regulations

for emergency rear door exits and safety belts on vehicles used to transport children effective upon enactment.

Results: Defeated 4 to 9.

Vote by Member: McGovern—Nay; Hastings (FL)—Nay; Matsui—Nay; Cardoza—Nay; Welch—Nay; Castor—Nay; Arcuri—Nay; Sutton—Nay; Dreier—Yea; Diaz-Balart—Yea; Hastings (WA)—Yea; Sessions—Yea; Slaughter—Nay.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE

(Summaries derived from information provided by sponsors.)

1. Johnson, Eddie Bernice (TX): The amendment would instruct the Secretary of HHS to create partnerships between Head Start and the HBCUs. These partnerships would increase the number of associate, baccalaureate, and advanced degrees in early childhood education that are earned by Head Start staff and parents of Head Start students. (10 minutes)

2. Price, Tom (GA): The amendment allows eight states to coordinate Head Start with state-run early childhood development programs through a demonstration program. (10 minutes)

3. Sestak (PA): The amendment authorizes the Education Secretary to carry out a program to forgive student loans for Head Start and Early Head Start teachers who have earned a bachelor's degree in a field related to early childhood education and who commit to teach in the program for a minimum of 3 years. (10 minutes)

4. Hirono (HI): The amendment revises the training and technical assistance program for Early Head Start by ensuring that training and technical assistance are provided by entities with specific expertise in infant and toddler development. The amendment also directs 50 percent of training and technical assistance funds directly to the grantees for the purposes of program improvement. (10 minutes)

5. Mica (FL): The amendment amends Section 18 of the bill to require that the Secretary certify that at least 50 percent of all Head Start teachers nationwide meet certain degree requirements by September 30, 2011, two years earlier than required under the current legislation. (10 minutes)

6. Kennedy, Patrick (RI)/Hall, John (NY): The amendment would define "inclusive classrooms" as Head Start classrooms that include both children with disabilities and children without disabilities. It would make certain funds in the bill available to increase the understanding of the impact of Head Start services delivered in inclusive classrooms on both children with and without disabilities and to assist Head Start programs in improving the quality of inclusive classrooms. (10 minutes)

7. Putnam (FL): The amendment strikes the development and implementation of the application review system, including the expert panel provision. In addition, the amendment strikes designation when no entity has priority and instead designates competition—calling for the automatic recompetition for agency designation every five years, regardless of performance. (10 minutes)

8. Porter (NV): The amendment requires that Head Start grantees, before hiring individuals, obtain (1) a state, Federal, or tribal criminal record check in all jurisdictions where the grantee provides services, (2) a state, Federal, or tribal criminal record check as required by the jurisdictions where they provide services, or (3)

a criminal record check as otherwise required by Federal law. (10 minutes)

9. Carnahan (MO): The amendment provides that, in the event that the amounts appropriated to carry out the program do not exceed the funds appropriated for the prior year, Head Start grantees may negotiate with the Secretary a reduced funded enrollment level if the grantee can demonstrate that such reduction is necessary to maintain the quality of services. (10 minutes)

10. Cuellar (TX): The amendment would require the states or agencies that administer the Head Start program to describe the type of assessment used to determine the rate of progress made by students with Limited English Proficiency. (10 minutes)

11. Shuler (NC)/Ellsworth (IN)/Loebsack (IA): The amendment outlines the history and importance of allowing faith-based and community-based organizations to participate in Head Start programs. It inserts language into the Head Start Reauthorization that explicitly states that faith-based and community-based organizations will continue to be eligible to participate in the Head Start program on the same basis as other organizations. (10 minutes)

12. Space (OH)/Hare (IL)/Welch (VT): The amendment amends the criteria for the allocation of resources for technical assistance and training to include consideration of barriers in rural areas to professional development, parent involvement, home visits and health screening. The amendment also requires the Secretary to consider the needs of rural and urban areas when entering contracts with entities in each state for the purposes of technical and training assistance.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER UNDER THE RULE

1. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON OF TEXAS, OR HER DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

Page 152, line 23, strike the close quotation and the period at the end.

Page 152, after line 23, insert the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

“(s) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HEAD START PARTNERSHIPS.—In order to promote quality services and instruction to children with diverse backgrounds, the Secretary shall work in collaboration with Historically Black Colleges and Universities to—

“(1) implement education programs that include education to increase the number of associate, baccalaureate, and advanced degrees in early childhood education and related fields that are earned by Head Start agency staff members, and parents of children served by such an agency; and

“(2) carry out other activities to upgrade the skills and qualifications of noncertified educational personnel to meet the professional standards in section 648A(a).

Individuals who receive assistance under this paragraph shall subsequently teach in a center-based Head Start program for a period of time equivalent to the period for which they received assistance or shall repay such assistance.”.

2. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE PRICE OF
GEORGIA, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

At the end, add the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

TITLE II—STATE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

SEC. 201. STATE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

The Head Start Act is amended by inserting after section 643 the following new section:

“SEC. 643A. STATE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

“(a) GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) ELIGIBLE STATES.—In the case of each eligible State that submits to the Secretary an application that fulfills the requirements of this section, the Secretary, from amounts appropriated under section 639(a), shall make a grant to the State to carry out a State demonstration program under this section, except that the Secretary shall not make such grants to more than 8 eligible States.

“(B) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall make awards to those States that demonstrate—

“(i) that the State standards generally meet or exceed the standards that ensure the quality and effectiveness of programs operated by Head Start agencies;

“(ii) the capacity to deliver high quality early childhood education services to prepare children, including low-income children, for school; and

“(iii) success in improving the school readiness of children.

“(2) STATE ELIGIBILITY.—A State shall be eligible to participate in the program under this section if it meets each of the following criteria:

“(A) The State has an existing State supported system providing public prekindergarten to children prior to entry into kindergarten.

“(B) The State has implemented standards as of fiscal year 2007 for school readiness that include standards for language, prereading and premathematics development for prekindergarten that are aligned with State kindergarten through twelfth grade academic content standards and which shall apply to all programs receiving funds under this part or provides an assurance that such standards will be aligned by the end of the second fiscal year of participation.

“(C) State and locally appropriated funds for prekindergarten services and Head Start services in the base year under this section shall not be less than 50 percent of the Federal funds that the grantees in the State received under this Act in the base year for services to Head Start eligible children, excluding amounts for services provided under section 645A.

“(D) The State has established a means for inter-agency coordination and collaboration in the development of the plan under subsection (h).

“(b) LEAD AGENCY.—A program under this section shall be administered by a State governmental entity designated by the Chief Executive Officer of the State as the lead State agency.

“(c) STATE OPERATION OF PROGRAM.—The State may conduct all or any part of the program under this section (including the activities specified in subsection (g)) directly or by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

“(d) TRANSITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For 60 months after the effective date of this section, the State shall continue to provide funds to each local grantee who—

“(A) was receiving funds under this subchapter, as in effect prior to the date of enactment of this section, and

“(B) is serving the geographic area covered by the plan in section 643A(h).”

Such continuing grants shall be made in accordance with the terms of the grant made to the local grantee immediately prior to such date of enactment. This paragraph shall not apply to a grant applicant who has experienced substantial uncorrected deficiencies on Department of Health and Human Services monitoring reports during any year of the most recent 5-year period, or to a grantee that, as determined by the State, does not comply with the State plan described in subsection 643A(h) submitted to the Secretary.

“(e) FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL ALLOTMENTS TO STATE PROGRAMS.—From each total amount described in paragraph (2) allotted to a State for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall pay to a State with a program approved under this section for such fiscal year an amount equal to—

“(A) if the State program is statewide, 100 percent of such total amount; and

“(B) if the State program is limited to a geographic area or areas, the sum of—

“(i) an amount equal to the amount received by grantees in such geographic area or areas for the Federal fiscal year preceding the first fiscal year of the State program under this section; plus

“(ii) an amount bearing the same ratio to the excess (if any) above the total amount for such preceding fiscal year as the number of children less than 5 years of age from families whose income is below the poverty line in the geographic area or areas included in the program bears to the total number of such children in the State (as determined using the same data used pursuant to section 640(a)(4)(B)).

“(2) FUNDS ALLOCATED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), amounts described in this paragraph are:

“(A) BASIC STATE ALLOTMENTS.—Amounts allotted to States pursuant to section 640(a)(4), including amounts reserved pursuant to section 640(a)(5), excluding amounts for services provided under section 645A.

“(B) STATE ALLOTMENTS OF EXPANSION FUNDS.—Amounts allotted to States pursuant to section 640(a)(3)(D)(i)(I) for program expansion.

“(C) QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS.—Quality improvement funds (if any) reserved pursuant to section 640(a)(3).

“(D) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS.—An amount bearing the same ratio to the amount set aside for training and technical assistance activities pursuant to section 640(a)(2)(C)(i) and (ii) as the State’s share of amounts allotted under section 640(a)(4)(B) bears to the total amount so allotted (and for purposes of subparagraph (A), such amount shall be considered an amount allotted to the State for the fiscal year).

“(3) NON-FEDERAL MATCH.—(A) In determining the amount of Federal and non-Federal contributions for purposes of this section, the amounts required to be expended by the State under subsection (h)(14)(B) (relating to maintenance of effort) shall be excluded.

“(B) Financial assistance made available to a State under this subchapter shall be in an amount equal to 95 percent of the total amount expended for such programs. The Secretary shall require non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to 5 percent of the total amount expended under this subchapter for such programs.

“(C) Non-Federal contributions may be made in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

“(4) COMBINED OPERATIONS WITH OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—A State may combine funds for a program under this section with funds for other early childhood programs serving children in the same age group, as long as all applicable requirements of this subchapter are met with respect to either—

“(A) the entire combined program; or

“(B) each child served in such combined program for whom the services provided are funded from appropriations under this subchapter or non-Federal matching contributions under this subchapter.

“(5) USE OF FUNDS WITHOUT REGARD TO ALLOTMENT PURPOSES.—A State may use funds received pursuant to this section for any program purpose set forth in section 636, without regard to the purposes for such funds specified in section 640.

“(6) OTHER FUNDS.—Funds received under this section shall not supplant any non-Federal, State or local funds that would otherwise be used for activities authorized under this section or similar activities carried out in the State.

“(f) COORDINATION AND CHOICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State demonstration Program shall be coordinated with the education programs of local educational agencies in the State to ensure that the program is effectively designed to develop in children in the program the knowledge and behaviors necessary to transition successfully to kindergarten and to succeed in school.

“(2) PROGRAMS CONCERNED.—

“(A) REQUIRED PROGRAMS.—Such coordination shall occur regarding the implementation of the following:

“(i) The Early Reading First and Even Start programs under title I, part B, subparts 2 and 3 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and other preschool programs carried out under title I of that Act.

“(ii) State prekindergarten programs.

“(iii) The Ready-to-Learn Television Program under subpart 3 of part D of title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

“(B) OPTIONAL PROGRAMS.—Such coordination may occur regarding the implementation of the following:

“(i) Programs under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act.

“(ii) Other publicly funded early childhood education programs.

“(3) PARENTAL CHOICE.—The program shall allow parents to choose the preschool program for their child.

“(g) REQUIRED SERVICES.—With funds under this section, the State shall provide services described in section 641A at least as extensive as were provided, and to at least as many low-income children and families in each fiscal year as were provided such services, with such funds in the base year in the State (or, if applicable, in the geographic area included in the State program). A program under this section shall include the following comprehensive activities designed to promote school readiness and success in school:

“(1) CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION.—Activities with enrolled children that promote—

“(A) cognitive development, language development, prereading, and premathematics knowledge and skills;

“(B) physical development, health, and nutrition (including through coordination with, and referral of children and families to local health service entities; and

“(C) social development important for environments constructive for child development, early learning, and school success.

“(2) PARENT EDUCATION AND INVOLVEMENT.—Activities with the parents of enrolled children directed at enhancing and encouraging—

“(A) involvement in, and ability to support, their children’s educational development;

“(B) parenting skills and understanding of child development; and

“(C) ability to participate effectively in decisions relating to the education of their children.

“(3) SOCIAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.—Activities directed at securing appropriate social and family support services for enrolled children and their families, primarily through referral and coordination with local, State, and Federal entities that provide such services.

“(4) HEAD START SERVICES.—For purposes of paragraph (1) Head Start services furnished in a State program under this section shall include all Head Start services, other than—

“(A) Indian Head Start programs and migrant and seasonal Head Start programs supported with funds reserved under section 640(a)(2)(A); and

“(B) Early Head Start services provided under section 645A.

“(h) STATE PLAN.—A State proposing to administer a program under this section shall submit a State plan to the Secretary. The State plan shall include the following:

“(1) LEAD STATE AGENCY.—The plan shall identify the entity designated by the Chief Executive Officer of the State as the lead State agency.

“(2) GEOGRAPHIC AREA.—The plan shall specify whether the program is statewide, and, if it is not, identify the geographic area or areas covered by the plan. A geographic area may be a city, county, standard metropolitan statistical area, or such other geographic area in the State.

“(3) PROGRAM PERIOD.—A State program under this section shall be in effect for 5 Federal fiscal years.

“(4) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.—The plan shall describe the services under subsection (f) to be provided in the program and arrangements the State proposes to use to provide the services specified in subsection (g), including how the State will leverage existing delivery systems for such services.

“(5) NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—The plan shall describe the results of a State needs assessment and shall provide an assurance that the State will use the results to identify the needs for early childhood education services within a State or geographic area to be served and is targeting services to those areas of greatest need and to expand and improve services to disadvantaged children in the State.

“(6) ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE.—The plan shall provide an assurance that the State program will comply with the requirements of this section, including each of the following:

“(A) PRIORITY FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN.—Requirements established pursuant to section 645(a) concerning the eligibility and priority of individuals for participation in Head Start programs.

“(B) CONTINUATION FOR EXISTING PROVIDERS.—An applicant who received funds under this subchapter in prior fiscal years and has not corrected any substantial deficiencies identified in the past 5 years shall not be eligible to receive any grants, contract, or cooperative agreements under this section.

“(C) PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.—Requirements pursuant to section 640(d) concerning Head Start enrollment opportunities and services for children with disabilities.

“(D) PROVISIONS CONCERNING FEES AND COPAYMENTS.—The provisions of section 645(b) concerning the charging of fees and the circumstances under which copayments are permissible.

“(E) FEDERAL SHARE; STATE AND LOCAL MATCHING.—The provisions of section 640(b) limiting Federal financial assistance for Head Start programs, and providing for non-Federal contributions.

“(F) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The provisions of section 644(b) limiting the share of program funds that may be used for developing and administering a program.

“(G) FEDERAL PROPERTY INTEREST.—Applicable provisions of this subchapter regarding the Federal Government interest in property (including real property) purchased, leased, or renovated with Federal funds.

“(7) IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS.—The plan shall identify barriers in the State to the effective use of Federal, State, and local public funds, and private funds, for early education and care that are available to the State on the date on which the application is submitted.

“(8) STATE GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL READINESS.—The plan shall include—

“(A) a State definition of school readiness;

“(B) a description of the State’s general goals for school readiness, including how the State intends to—

“(i) promote and maintain ongoing communication and collaboration between providers of early care and education and local educational agencies in the State;

“(ii) align early childhood and kindergarten curricula to ensure program continuity; and

“(iii) ensure that children successfully transition to kindergarten.

“(9) TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS.—The plan shall assure that the qualifications and credentials for early childhood teachers meet or exceed the standards in section 648A(a)(2)(A), (B), and (C).

“(10) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—The plan shall provide a description of the State plan for assuring the ongoing professional development of early childhood educators and administrators including how the State intends to—

“(A) improve the competencies of early childhood educators in meeting the cognitive and other developmental needs of young children through effective instructional strategies, methods, and skills;

“(B) develop and implement initiatives to effectively recruit and promote the retention of well-qualified early childhood educators;

“(C) encourage institutions of higher education, providers of community-based training, and other qualified providers to develop high-quality programs to prepare students to be early childhood education professionals; and

“(D) improve the quality of professional development available to meet the needs of teachers that serve pre-school children.

“(11) QUALITY STANDARDS.—The State shall describe the State’s standards, applicable to all agencies, programs, and projects that receive funds under this subchapter, including a description of—

“(A) standards with respect to services required to be provided, including health, parental involvement, nutritional, social, transition activities described in section 642(d) of this subchapter, and other services;

“(B)(i) education standards to promote the school readiness of children participating in a State program under title II of this subchapter; and

“(ii) additional education standards to ensure that the children participating in the program, at a minimum develop and demonstrate—

“(I) language skills;

“(II) prereading knowledge and skills, including interest in and appreciation of books, reading and writing either alone or with others;

“(III) premathematics knowledge and skills, including aspects of classification, seriation, number, spatial relations, and time;

“(IV) cognitive abilities related to academic achievement;

“(V) social development important for environments constructive for child development, early learning, and school success; and

“(VI) in the case of limited-English proficient children, progress toward acquisition of the English language;

“(C) the State’s minimum standards for early childhood teacher credentials and qualifications;

“(D) the student-teacher ratio for each age-group served;

“(E) administrative and financial management standards;

“(F) standards relating to the condition and location of facilities for such agencies, programs, and projects; and

“(G) such other standards as the State finds to be appropriate.

“(12) STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The State plan shall—

“(i) ensure that individual providers are achieving results in advancing the knowledge and behaviors identified by the State as prerequisites for kindergarten success; and

“(ii) specify the measures the State will use to evaluate the progress toward achieving such results and the effectiveness of the State program under this section, and of individual providers in such program.

“(B) PUBLICATION OF RESULTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the results shall be made publicly available in the communities served by the program.

“(ii) CONFIDENTIALITY SAFEGUARDS.—The system shall have in effect privacy safeguards ensuring that information on children included in data and results made public in accordance with clause (i) shall be in aggregated form, and shall not include information allowing identification of individual children.

“(13) TRANSITION PLAN.—The initial State plan shall make provision for transition from the direct Federal program under section 640 to the demonstration program.

“(14) COOPERATION WITH RESEARCH STUDIES.—The plan shall provide assurances that the State will cooperate with research activities described in section 649.

“(15) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—The State plan shall—

“(A) contain a commitment to provide data, at such times and in such format as the Secretary requires, concerning non-Federal expenditures and numbers of children and families served in preschool and Head Start programs during the base year and each fiscal year covered under the State plan, sufficient to satisfy the Secretary that the State program will meet its obligation with respect to the maintenance of effort requirement under subparagraph (B); and

“(B) assure that the resources (which may be cash or in-kind) contributed by the State government to child care for preschool-aged children and other preschool programs, including Head Start, in the State (or, if applicable, in the geographic area included in the State program) for each fiscal year in which the program under this section is in effect shall be in an amount at least equal to the total amount of such State governmental resources contributed to support such programs in the State (or geographic area) for the base year.

“(16) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The State plan shall describe the training and technical assistance activities that shall provide high quality, sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused training and technical assistance in order to have a positive and lasting impact on classroom instruction.

“(i) RECORDS, REPORTS AND AUDITS.—The State agency administering the State program, and each entity participating as a Head Start service provider, shall maintain such records, make such reports, and cooperate with such audits as the Secretary may require for oversight of program activities and expenditures.

“(j) INAPPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRIORITY IN AGENCY DESIGNATION.—The provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of section 641 (concerning priority in designation of Head Start agencies, successor agencies, and delegate agencies) shall not apply to a State program under this section.

“(k) CONSULTATION.—A State proposing to administer a program under this section shall submit, with the plan under this section, assurances that the plan was developed through timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate public and private sector entities, including—

“(1) representatives of agencies responsible for administering early education and care programs in the State, including Head Start providers;

“(2) parents;

“(3) the State educational agency and local educational agencies;

“(4) early childhood education professionals;

“(5) kindergarten teachers and teachers in grades 1 through 4;

“(6) child welfare agencies;

“(7) child care resource and referral agencies;

“(8) child care providers; and

“(9) a wide array of persons interested in and involved with early care and early education issues in the State, such as representatives of—

“(A) health care professionals;

“(B) the State agency with responsibility for the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966;

“(C) institutions of higher education;

“(D) community-based and faith-based organizations;

“(E) the business community;

“(F) State legislators and local officials;

“(G) museums and libraries;

“(H) other relevant entities in the State; and

“(I) other agencies that provide resources for young children.

“(l) STATE PLAN SUBMISSION.—An application shall be submitted by a State pursuant to this section to the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, and shall be deemed to be approved by the Secretary unless the Secretary makes a written determination, prior to the expiration of a reasonable time beginning on the date on which the Secretary received the application, that the application is not in compliance with this section.

“(m) TREATMENT OF FUNDS.—If a State or local government contributes its own funds to supplement activities carried out under the applicable programs, the State or local government has the option to separate out the Federal funds or commingle them. If the funds are commingled, the provisions of this subchapter shall apply to all of the commingled funds in the same manner, and to the same extent, as the provisions apply to the Federal funds.

“(n) FEDERAL OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY; CORRECTIVE ACTION; WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL.—

“(1) FEDERAL OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary shall retain the authority to oversee the operation of the State program under this section, including through review of records and reports, audits, and onsite inspection of records and facilities and monitoring of program activities and operations.

“(2) CORRECTION OF DEFICIENCIES.—If the Secretary determines that a State program under this section substantially fails to meet the requirements of this section, the Secretary shall notify the State of the deficiencies identified and require corrective action as follows:

“(A) DEFICIENCIES CAUSING IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY.—The Secretary shall require immediate corrective action to eliminate a deficiency that the Secretary finds threatens the health or safety of staff or program participants or poses a threat to the integrity of Federal funds.

“(B) OTHER DEFICIENCIES.—The Secretary, taking into consideration the nature and magnitude of a deficiency not described in subparagraph (A), and the time reasonably required for correction, may—

“(i) require the State to correct the deficiency within 90 days after notification under this paragraph; or

“(ii) require the State to implement a quality improvement plan designed to correct the deficiency within one year from identification of the deficiency.

“(3) WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL.—If the deficiencies identified under paragraph (2) are not corrected by the deadlines established by the Secretary, the Secretary shall initiate proceedings to withdraw approval of the State program under this section.

“(4) PROCEDURAL RIGHTS.—A State subject to adverse action under this subsection shall have the same procedural rights as a Head Start agency subject to adverse action under section 641A.

“(o) INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall contract with an independent organization outside of the Department to design and conduct a multi-year, rigorous, scientifically valid, quantitative evaluation of the State demonstration program.

“(2) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall award a contract within 180 days of the date of enactment of the Improving Head Start Act of 2007, to an organization that is capable of designing and carrying out an independent evaluation described in this subsection.

“(3) ANALYSIS.—The evaluation shall include an analysis of each State participating in the State demonstration program, including—

“(A) A quantitative description of the State prekindergarten program and Head Start programs within such State, as such programs existed prior to participation in the State demonstration program, including:

“(i) data on the characteristics of the children served, including the overall number and percentages of children served disaggregated by socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity of those served;

“(ii) the quality and characteristics of the services provided to such children; and

“(iii) the education attainment of instructional staff.

“(B) A quantitative and qualitative description of the State program after each year of participation in the State demonstration, which shall include each of the following:

“(i) A description of changes in the administration of the State program, including the Head Start program, within such State.

“(ii) The rate of progress of the State in improving the school readiness of disadvantaged children in the key domains of development.

“(iii) Data as described in subparagraph (A), as updated annually.

“(iv) The extent to which each State has met the goals established by such State with respect to annual goals as described under section 643(h)(10).

“(4) REPORT.—(A) The Secretary shall provide an interim report on the progress of such evaluation and of the progress of States participating in the State demonstration in increasing the availability of high quality prekindergarten services for low-income children not later than October 1, 2010 to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in the House of Rep-

representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in the Senate.

“(B) The Secretary shall provide a final report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in the Senate, not later than October 1, 2011, which shall include an overall evaluation of the State demonstration program, including an assessment of its success in increasing the overall availability of high quality prekindergarten services for low income children in each of the participating States as compared to a representative sample of non-participating States.

“(p) STATE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.—Following the submission of an application fulfilling all requirements of this section, a State that meets all eligibility requirements set forth in section 643A(a)(2) and is selected by the Secretary to participate in the demonstration program under this section shall:

“(1) maintain or increase fiscal year 2007 State funding levels for early childhood education;

“(2) provide an additional contribution of non-federal funds equal to 5 percent of the State’s Federal Head Start allotment;

“(3) use Head Start funding only for the purposes of Head Start as described in section 636;

“(4) provide all comprehensive social services currently available to Head Start children, including health and nutrition;

“(5) develop a strategy to maximize parental involvement to enable parents to become full partners in the education of their children;

“(6) demonstrate that the qualifications and credentials for early childhood teachers meet or exceed the standards in section 648A(a)(2)(A), (B), and (C);

“(7) enforce quality standards for school readiness that are aligned with K–12 educational standards and generally meet or exceed the Federal Head Start performance standards;

“(8) continue funding, for a period of 60 months, all current Head Start grantees as described in section 643A(d);

“(9) provide services described in section 641A that are at least as extensive as were provided, and to at least as many low-income children and families in the State, in each fiscal year as were provided such services in the base year;

“(10) establish a comprehensive collaboration effort to integrate Head Start, state-funded pre-kindergarten programs, Even Start, Title I preschool, and Early Reading First;

“(11) participate in independent evaluations of the demonstration program authorized under this subchapter; and

“(12) submit to Federal oversight by the Secretary.

“(q) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘base year’ means the fiscal year 2007.”.

3. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE SESTAK OF PENNSYLVANIA, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

Page 159, after line 12, insert the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

“(g) INCENTIVES FOR HEAD START TEACHERS AND EARLY HEAD START TEACHERS.—

“(1) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to encourage individuals to begin and continue teaching in Head Start programs and Early Head Start programs.

“(2) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—From the sums appropriated pursuant to paragraph (9), the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized carry out a program to forgive, in accordance with this subsection, the student loan debt of any borrower who has one or more loans described under subparagraph (B) made on or after October 1, 1998, and who—

“(I) commits to working as a Head Start teacher or an Early Head Start teacher for at least 3 consecutive complete program years;

“(ii) has a bachelor’s degree in a field related to early childhood education; and

“(iii) is not in default on a loan for which the borrower seeks forgiveness.

“(B) METHOD OF LOAN FORGIVENESS.—To provide the loan forgiveness authorized in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall, subject to subparagraph (C), carry out a program—

“(I) through the holder of the loan, to assume the obligation to repay a qualified loan amount for a loan made under section 428 or 428H of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078, 1078–8); and

“(ii) to cancel a qualified loan amount for a Federal Direct Stafford Loan or a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan made under part D of title IV of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.).

“(C) TREATMENT OF CONSOLIDATION LOANS.—A loan amount for a loan made under section 428C or section 455(g) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1078–3, 1087e(g)) may be a qualified loan amount for the purposes of subparagraph (B) only to the extent that such loan amount was used to repay a loan made under section 428 or 428H, a Federal Direct Stafford Loan, or a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan for a borrower who meets the requirements of subparagraph (A), as determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

“(3) QUALIFIED LOAN AMOUNT.—After the beginning of the qualifying employment described in paragraph (2)(A)(I) and upon approval of a borrower’s application under paragraph (5), the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall forgive under this subsection not more than \$10,000 of the student loan obligation of a borrower that is outstanding at the beginning of such employment.

“(4) AWARD BASIS.—Loan forgiveness under this subsection shall be on a first-come, first-served basis and subject to the availability of appropriations.

“(5) APPLICATION FOR FORGIVENESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each borrower desiring loan forgiveness under this subsection shall submit a complete and accurate application to the Secretary of Education at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may require.

“(B) SERVICE AGREEMENT.—Each such application shall contain an agreement by the borrower—

“(i) to complete the commitment described in paragraph (2)(A)(I) within 6 years after receiving loan forgiveness under this subsection; or

“(ii) to repay the portion required by the regulations under paragraph (6)(A) if the borrower does not complete such commitment.

“(6) REPAYMENT FOR FAILURE TO COMPLETE SERVICE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the event that any recipient of loan forgiveness under this subsection fails or refuses to complete a portion of the recipient’s service obligation under the agreement required by paragraph (5)(B), the same portion of the amounts of loans forgiven under this subsection for such recipient shall be subject to repayment in accordance with terms and conditions, and in the amounts, specified by the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in regulations under this subsection.

“(B) FORGIVENESS IF DECEASED OR DISABLED.—Such regulations shall provide that, subject to the availability of appropriations, an individual shall be excused from repayment of any amount required under paragraph (1) if the individual dies or becomes permanently and totally disabled (as determined in accordance with such regulations).

“(7) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized to issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

“(8) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize any refunding of any repayment of a loan.

“(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

“(10) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) HEAD START TEACHER.—The term ‘Head Start teacher’ means an individual who—

“(i) is employed by a Head Start agency or an entity that carries out an Early Head Start program, to provide for the education and care of children who have not reached the age of compulsory school attendance who are enrolled in a Head Start program or an Early Head Start program receiving funds under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et. seq.); and

“(ii) who has, at a minimum, an associate’s degree in early childhood education or a related field.
“(B) PROGRAM YEAR.—The term ‘program year’, where applied to service as a Head Start teacher or an Early Head Start teacher, means a program year as defined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.”.

4. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE HIRONO OF HAWAII, OR HER DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

Beginning on page 124, strike line 8 and all that follows through line 9 on page 126, and insert the following:

“{g} MONITORING, TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EVALUATION.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—To ensure the successful operation of programs assisted under this section, the Secretary shall use funds from the portion specified in section 640(a)(6) to monitor the operation of such programs, evaluate their effectiveness, and provide training and technical assistance tailored to the particular needs of such programs.

“(2) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made available to carry out this section for any fiscal year, not less than 5 percent, and not more than 10 percent, shall be reserved to fund a training and technical assistance account. In determining the amount so reserved, the Secretary shall consider the number of new programs serving pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and their families, recognizing their need for more intensive training and technical assistance services during program expansion.

“(B) ACTIVITIES.—Of the funds in the account described in subparagraph (A)

“(I) not less than 50 percent shall be available to local entities that carry out Early Head Start programs for training and technical assistance activities in order to make program improvements identified by such entities;

“(ii) not less than 30 percent shall be available to the Secretary to support a State-based system of early childhood education training and technical assistance to local entities that carry out Early Head Start programs that shall meet the requirements of subparagraph (C), including the creation, management, and support of a national network of the State-based infant-toddler specialists specified in such subparagraph; and

“(iii) the remainder of such amount shall be available to the Secretary to assist local entities that carry out Early Head Start programs in meeting and exceeding the standards described in section 641A(a)(1), including—

“(I) making grants to, and entering into contracts with, organizations with specialized expertise relating to infants, toddlers, and families and the capacity needed to provide direction and sup-

port to a national training and technical assistance system, in order to provide such direction and support;

“(II) providing ongoing training and technical assistance on Early Head Start program development and improvement for regional staff charged with monitoring and overseeing the administration of the program carried out under this section;

“(III) developing training and technical assistance materials and resources to support program development and improvement and best practices in providing services to children and families served by Early Head Start programs;

“(IV) creating special training and technical assistance initiatives targeted to serving high risk populations, such as children in the child welfare system and homeless children;

“(V) providing ongoing training and technical assistance to Early Head Start grantees, and support and program planning and implementation assistance for new recipients of such grants, including the conversion of Head Start grants to Early Head Start grants; and

“(VI) providing professional development designed to increase program participation for underserved populations of eligible children.

“(C) CONTRACTS.—For the purposes of delivering a State-based training and technical assistance system, as described in subparagraph (B)(ii), that will meet the needs of local grantees and provide high quality, sustained, and intensive training and technical assistance on programming for infants and toddlers to Early Head Start programs and in order to help such programs meet or exceed the program performance standards described in section 641A(a)(1), the Secretary shall—

“(i) enter into contracts in each State with 1 or more entities that have a demonstrated expertise in supporting the delivery of high quality programs for pregnant women and children less than 3 years of age, except that bi-State or multi-State contracts may be entered into if the demographics of proximal States make such a system more appropriate;

“(ii) ensure that contracts awarded under clause (I) are in an amount sufficient to provide for each state a minimum of one full-time specialist with expertise in the development of children under age three and programming for pregnant women and such children;

“(iii) to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that the contracts awarded Under clause (I) and the services provided therein are integrated with and augment the contract or contracts awarded and services provided under section 648 (n); and

“(iv) ensure that the entities described in clause (I) determine the types of services to be provided through consultation with—

“(I) local entities that carry out Early Head Start programs;
 “(II) the State Head Start collaboration office;
 and
 “(III) the State Head Start Association.”.

5. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE MICA OF FLORIDA, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

Page 154, line 9, strike “2013” and insert “2011”.

6. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE KENNEDY OF RHODE ISLAND, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

Page 3, line 2, strike “(22) and (23)” and insert “(23) and (24)”.

Page 3, line 4, strike “(20)” and insert “(21)”.

Page 3, line 6, strike “(15) through (18)” and insert “(16) through (19)”.

Page 3, line 8, strike“(13)” and insert “(14)”.

Page 4, line 20, strike the close quotation and the comma at the end.

Page 4, after line 20, insert the following:

“(13) The term ‘inclusive classroom’ means a Head Start classroom that contains both children with disabilities and children without disabilities.”,

Page 136, line 20, strike “and” at the end

Page 136, line 25, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 136 after line 25, insert the following:

“(17) assist Head Start agencies and programs to increase the capacity of classroom staff to meet the needs of eligible children in inclusive classrooms.”.

Page 160, strike lines 6 through 12, and insert the following:

(A) in paragraph (8) by adding “and” at the end,

(B) by striking paragraphs (9) and (10) and insert the following:

“(9) contribute to understanding the impact of Head Start services delivered in inclusive classrooms on both children with disabilities and children without disabilities, and develop practices for increasing the availability and quality of inclusive classrooms.”.

7. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE PUTNAM OF FLORIDA, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

Page 37, beginning on line 10, strike “subsections (a), (b), and (c) of”.

Beginning on page 39, line 21, strike “, except” and all that follows through line 3 on page 40, and insert as period.

Beginning on page 40, strike line 7 and all that follows through line 10 on page 45, insert the following:.

“(c) DESIGNATION ON COMPETITIVE BASIS.—

“(1) SELECTION.—From among entities that submit plans under subsection (b), the Secretary shall, after”.

Beginning on page 52, strike line 20 and all that follows through line 2 on page 53.

Page 53, line 3, strike “(g)” and insert “(d)”.
 Page 53, line 7, strike “(h)” and insert “(e)”.

8. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE PORTER OF NEVADA, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

Page 159, line 12, strike the close quotation and the period at the end.

Page 159, after line 12, insert the following:

“(g) STAFF RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION PROCEDURES.—Before a Head Start agency employs an individual, such agency shall—

“(1) conduct an interview of such individual;

“(2) verify the personal and employment references provided by such individual; and

“(3) obtain—

“(A) a State, tribal, or Federal criminal record check covering all jurisdictions where the grantee provides Head Start services to children;

“(B) a State, tribal, or Federal criminal record check as required by the law of the jurisdiction where the grantee provides Head Start services; or

“(C) a criminal record check as otherwise required by Federal law.”.

9. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE CARNAHAN OF MISSOURI, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

Page 35, after line 10, insert the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

(d) ENROLLMENT.—Section 640(g) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) In the event that the amounts appropriated to carry out the program under this subchapter do not exceed the amount appropriated in the prior fiscal year, or exceed the amount appropriated in the prior fiscal year by an amount equal to less than the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index For All Urban Consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Head Start grantees may negotiate with the Secretary a reduced funded enrollment level without a reduction in the grant amount if such grantee can demonstrate that such reduction is necessary to maintain the quality of services.

“(A) In accordance with this paragraph, the Secretary shall set up a process for grantees to negotiate the above-mentioned reduced funded enrollment level.

“(B) Under the conditions detailed in this paragraph, the Secretary shall be required to notify grantees of their right to negotiate a reduced funded enrollment level if such grantee can demonstrate that such reduction is necessary to maintain the quality of services.”.

10. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE CUELLAR OF TEXAS, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

Page 163, after line 3, insert the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

“(ii) a description of the type of assessment or assessments used to determine the rate of progress made by limited English proficient children;”.

11. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE SHULER OF NORTH CAROLINA, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

Page 2, line 4, insert “(a) SHORT TITLE. ___”.

Page 2, after line 5, insert the following:

(b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—The Congress—

(1) finds that—

(A) while the steady economic growth and low inflation in the United States has yielded unprecedented prosperity, many children and families in this country have not benefited from this prosperity and continue to be socioeconomically disadvantaged,

(B) many community- and faith-based organizations have expertise in moving individuals and families from dependency to self-sufficiency by providing families with the tools and skills they need to participate in the community and contribute to our economy,

(C) the Head Start Act was established to help prepare low-income young children to succeed in school and in life by addressing the needs of the whole child and providing comprehensive services such as health and nutrition,

(D) research confirms that children who attend Head Start programs enter school better prepared than low-income children who do not attend the program, are less likely to need special education services, to repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence, and are more likely to graduate from high school,

(E) community- and faith-based organizations have participated in Head Start programs since the enactment of the Head Start Act in 1965 and continue to serve more than 90,000 children and their families,

(F) parents have an integral role in the development and implementation of Head Start programs, community- and faith-based providers of Head Start services employ parents and encourage parents to volunteer in the programs because parents are children’s most important and influential teachers,

(G) community- and faith-based providers of Head Start services not only serve the needs of low-income children and their families but enrich, strengthen and reflect the diversity of the communities wherein they reside, and

(H) the Head Start Act is a critical component of America’s civil rights platform, and community and faith-based organizations have been leaders in the civil rights movement in the United States,

(2) supports the continued role of community and faith-based organizations in Head Start programs as providers of comprehensive services to children, families, and communities, and

(3) extends its gratitude to community- and faith-based organizations that provide Head Start services, and to the employ-

ees and volunteers for their commitment to the education, health, and economic well-being of low-income children and families.

Page 52, after line 19, insert the following:

“(3) CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY.—Faith-based and community-based organizations continue to be eligible, on the same basis as other organizations, to participate in any program under this subchapter for which they are otherwise eligible.”.

Page 120, at the end of line 15, add the following:

Faith-based and community-based organizations continue to be eligible, on the same basis as other organizations, to participate in any program under this section for which they are otherwise eligible.

12. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE SPACE OF OHIO, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

Page 136, strike lines 21 through 25, and insert the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

“(16) provide assistance to address the unique needs of programs located in rural communities, including—

“(A) removing barriers related to the recruitment and retention of Head Start teachers in rural communities;

“(B) developing innovative and effective models of professional development for improving staff qualifications and skills for staff living in rural communities;

“(C) removing barriers related to outreach efforts to eligible families in rural communities;

“(D) removing barriers to parent involvement in Head Start programs in rural communities;

“(E) removing barriers to providing home visiting services in rural communities; and

“(F) removing barriers to obtaining health screenings for Head Start participants in rural communities.”.

Page 148, after line 25, insert the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

“(5) ensure that in entering into such contracts as described in paragraph (1), such entities will address the needs of grantees in both urban and rural communities.”.