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(Original Signature of Member)

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R.**

To amend the Social Security Act to provide for mandatory funding, to ensure that the families that have infants and toddlers, have a family income of not more than 200 percent of the applicable Federal poverty guideline, and need child care have access to high-quality infant and toddler child care by the end of fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

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1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Child Care Access to  
3 Resources for Early-learning Act” or the “Child CARE  
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

6 The purposes of this Act are—

7 (1) to provide funding to ensure that the fami-  
8 lies that have infants and toddlers, that have a fam-  
9 ily income of not more than 200 percent of the ap-  
10 plicable Federal poverty guideline, and that need  
11 child care have access to high-quality infant and tod-  
12 dler child care by the end of fiscal year 2026, in  
13 order to promote family economic security and pa-  
14 rental employment, to support parents in balancing  
15 work and family obligations, and to promote chil-  
16 dren’s health, early care, and learning;

17 (2) to provide sufficient funding to ensure that  
18 both families and child care providers have the re-  
19 sources they need to support high-quality early care  
20 and learning for infants and toddlers;

21 (3) to ensure that provider payment rates, for  
22 infant and toddler child care providers, are set at a  
23 level high enough to support high-quality child care  
24 for infants and toddlers, including infants and tod-  
25 dlers with disabilities;

1           (4) to assist eligible infant and toddler child  
2           care providers in improving the quality of their pro-  
3           grams—

4                   (A) by strengthening the skills, com-  
5                   petencies, and compensation of the workforce of  
6                   those providers, in a manner aligned with the  
7                   report entitled “Transforming the Workforce  
8                   for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying  
9                   Foundation”, issued by the National Academy  
10                  of Sciences in April 2015; and

11                   (B) by helping those providers ensure that  
12                  children receive the comprehensive services they  
13                  need, by coordinating activities with other com-  
14                  munity service providers; and

15           (5) to ensure that high-quality infant and tod-  
16           dler child care is a strong component of a continuum  
17           of quality early care and learning activities within  
18           States and Indian and Native Hawaiian commu-  
19           nities, starting with prenatal care and continuing  
20           through activities in the early school years, with  
21           seamless transitions between programs.

22 **SEC. 3. APPROPRIATION.**

23           Title IV of the Social Security Act is amended by in-  
24           serting after section 418 (42 U.S.C. 618) the following:

1 **“SEC. 418A. APPROPRIATION.**

2 “For grants under the Child CARE Act, there is ap-  
3 propriated—

4 “(1) \$3,664,862,604 for fiscal year 2017;

5 “(2) \$4,121,731,861 for fiscal year 2018;

6 “(3) \$4,819,546,318 for fiscal year 2019;

7 “(4) \$5,843,784,371 for fiscal year 2020; and

8 “(5) \$6,887,236,056 for fiscal year 2021.”.

9 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND.—

12 The term “Child Care and Development Fund”  
13 means the funds appropriated under the Child Care  
14 and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42  
15 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) and the funds appropriated  
16 under section 418 of the Social Security Act (42  
17 U.S.C. 618).

18 (2) ELIGIBLE FAMILY.—The term “eligible  
19 family” means a family that has, and needs child  
20 care for, an infant or toddler, and is a low-income  
21 family.

22 (3) ELIGIBLE INFANT OR TODDLER.—The term  
23 “eligible infant or toddler” means an infant or tod-  
24 dler from a low-income family.

25 (4) INDIAN; INDIAN TRIBE.—The terms “In-  
26 dian” and “Indian tribe” have the meanings given

1 the terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determina-  
2 tion and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.  
3 450b).

4 (5) HIGH-QUALITY.—This term “high-quality”,  
5 used with respect to child care (including early care  
6 and learning), means child care provided in a man-  
7 ner consistent with the quality standards described  
8 in section 7(a)(3).

9 (6) INFANT OR TODDLER.—The term “infant  
10 or toddler” means a child under age 4.

11 (7) INFANT OR TODDLER WITH A DIS-  
12 ABILITY.—The term “infant or toddler with a dis-  
13 ability” has the meaning given the term in section  
14 632 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education  
15 Act (20 U.S.C. 1432).

16 (8) LOW-INCOME FAMILY.—The term “low-in-  
17 come family” means a family with a family income  
18 of not more than 200 percent of the applicable Fed-  
19 eral poverty guideline.

20 (9) NATIVE HAWAIIAN.—The term “Native Ha-  
21 waiian” has the meaning given the term in section  
22 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
23 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

24 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
25 means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

1           (11) STATE.—The term “State” means any of  
2           the several States, the District of Columbia, the Vir-  
3           gin Islands of the United States, the Commonwealth  
4           of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the  
5           Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

6           (12) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “tribal  
7           organization” has the meaning given the term in  
8           section 658P of the Child Care and Development  
9           Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

10 **SEC. 5. FUNDING ALLOTMENTS.**

11           (a) DISTRIBUTION BY ACTIVITY.—From the amounts  
12           appropriated under this Act for each fiscal year, the Sec-  
13           retary shall—

14           (1) reserve a portion for providing the allot-  
15           ments described in subsection (b) (relating to ex-  
16           panding access to high-quality child care);

17           (2) reserve a portion of not less than 2 percent  
18           of the appropriated amounts for providing the allot-  
19           ments described in subsection (d) (relating to Indian  
20           and Native Hawaiian child care);

21           (3) reserve a portion, of not more than 0.5 per-  
22           cent of the appropriated amounts, for carrying out  
23           research and evaluation activities under this Act;

1           (4) reserve a portion, of not more than 0.5 per-  
2           cent of the appropriated amounts, for carrying out  
3           technical assistance activities under this Act;

4           (5) reserve 6 percent of the appropriated  
5           amounts for making grants under subsection (e) (re-  
6           lating to child care provided during nontraditional  
7           and unpredictable hours); and

8           (6) use the remainder for providing the allot-  
9           ments described in subsection (c) (relating to main-  
10          taining access to child care).

11          (b) ALLOTMENTS FOR EXPANDING ACCESS TO HIGH-  
12          QUALITY CHILD CARE.—

13           (1) ALLOTMENTS.—Using funds reserved under  
14          subsection (a)(1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary  
15          shall allot to each eligible State an amount that  
16          bears the same relationship to the reserved funds as  
17          the number of infants and toddlers from low-income  
18          families in the State bears to the total number of  
19          such infants and toddlers in all eligible States.

20           (2) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives an  
21          allotment under this subsection shall use the allot-  
22          ment funds—

23                   (A) to expand access to high-quality child  
24                   care for infants and toddlers who do not receive

1 child care funded through the Child Care and  
2 Development Fund;

3 (B) to increase, as described in this Act,  
4 the quality of child care for infants and toddlers  
5 who receive child care funded through the Child  
6 Care and Development Fund;

7 (C)(i) to support payment rates, for child  
8 care providers that serve infants and toddlers,  
9 that reflect the cost of high-quality child care  
10 and are sufficient to attract, support, and re-  
11 tain providers who meet quality standards that  
12 relate to the unique needs of infants and tod-  
13 dlers, including infants and toddlers with dis-  
14 abilities; and

15 (ii) to increase the compensation of, and  
16 provide other financial incentives for, the high-  
17 ly-qualified infant and toddler child care work-  
18 force; and

19 (D) as otherwise described in section 7.

20 (c) ALLOTMENTS FOR MAINTAINING ACCESS TO  
21 CHILD CARE.—

22 (1) ALLOTMENTS.—Using the remainder de-  
23 scribed in subsection (a)(6) for a fiscal year, the  
24 Secretary shall allot to each eligible State an amount  
25 that bears the same relationship to the reserved

1 funds as the amount the State receives for the fiscal  
2 year under section 418(a)(2)(B) of the Social Secu-  
3 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 618(a)(2)(B)) bears to the total  
4 amount received by all eligible States under that sec-  
5 tion.

6 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives an  
7 allotment under this subsection shall use the allot-  
8 ment funds in accordance with the Child Care and  
9 Development Block Grant Act of 1990.

10 (d) ALLOTMENTS FOR INDIAN AND NATIVE HAWAI-  
11 IAN CHILD CARE.—

12 (1) FORMULA.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—In order to ensure that  
14 Indian and Native Hawaiian children have  
15 equal access to high-quality infant and toddler  
16 child care, the Secretary shall develop an for-  
17 mula for allotting the funds reserved under sub-  
18 section (a)(2) to Indian tribes and tribal organi-  
19 zations.

20 (B) FORMULA FACTORS.—In developing  
21 the formula, the Secretary shall—

22 (i) provide for a level of funding that  
23 will ensure that, by the end of fiscal year  
24 2026, the Indian and Native Hawaiian in-  
25 fants and toddlers in eligible families will

1 receive a level of services that is equivalent  
2 to the high-quality child care received by  
3 infants and toddlers in the general popu-  
4 lation under this Act;

5 (ii) take into consideration the unique  
6 needs and circumstances of individuals in  
7 Indian and Native Hawaiian communities,  
8 such as unemployment rates; and

9 (iii) the cost of providing high-quality  
10 child care that addresses Indian and Na-  
11 tive Hawaiian culture and language.

12 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—An Indian tribe or tribal  
13 organization that receives an allotment under this  
14 subsection shall use the allotment funds as described  
15 in section 9.

16 (e) GRANTS FOR CHILD CARE DURING UNCONVEN-  
17 TIONAL HOURS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Using funds reserved under  
19 subsection (a)(5) for a fiscal year, the Secretary may  
20 make grants to States for child care provided during  
21 nontraditional and unpredictable hours.

22 (2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may adjust  
23 the requirement that providers serving children that  
24 require child care during those hours meet quality  
25 standards as described in section 7(a)(3), as nec-

1        essary to address the need for nontraditional and  
2        unpredictable hours care.

3           (3) **APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS.**—Except as  
4        provided in paragraph (2), a State that receives a  
5        grant under this subsection shall use the grant  
6        funds in accordance with the Child Care and Devel-  
7        opment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9859  
8        et seq.) and this Act.

9        **SEC. 6. STATE APPLICATION.**

10       (a) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a grant  
11       under this Act through allotments made under subsection  
12       (b), (c), or (e) of section 5, a State shall submit to the  
13       Secretary an application, as a supplement to the State  
14       plan described in section 658E of the Child Care and De-  
15       velopment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858e).

16       (b) **INFORMATION.**—Each such application shall in-  
17       clude a description of each of the following:

18           (1)(A) How the State will increase the number  
19        of high-quality child care slots for eligible families,  
20        to ensure, by the end of fiscal year 2026, access to  
21        high-quality infant and toddler child care for the eli-  
22        gible families in the State (referred to in this section  
23        as “universal high-quality child care”).

24           (B) The ambitious goals and measurable bench-  
25        marks that the State will use to demonstrate

1 progress toward achieving universal high-quality  
2 child care, including—

3 (i) substantially increasing the percentage  
4 of eligible families served; and

5 (ii) addressing the needs identified in the  
6 needs assessment under section 7(a)(4).

7 (2) How the State will measurably improve, by  
8 the end of fiscal year 2026, the quality of child care  
9 available to children who are infants and toddlers,  
10 including such children who are dual language learn-  
11 ers or are children with disabilities, and the ambi-  
12 tious goals and measurable benchmarks that the  
13 State will use to demonstrate progress toward  
14 achieving this improvement.

15 (3) How the State will maintain, using the  
16 Child Care and Development Fund and the funds  
17 made available under section 5(c), the caseload of  
18 children that were served using the Child Care and  
19 Development Fund on the date of enactment of this  
20 Act.

21 (4)(A) How the State will conduct a study on  
22 the cost of high-quality child care for infants and  
23 toddlers, at least once every 3 years, consistent with  
24 this supplement—

1 (i) to determine provider payment rates  
2 that are sufficient—

3 (I) to ensure fair and competitive  
4 compensation for high-quality infant and  
5 toddler child care providers;

6 (II) to recognize child care providers  
7 who have the specialized knowledge and  
8 competencies of early childhood educators;  
9 and

10 (III) to recognize child care providers  
11 who offer a rich learning environment, use  
12 evidence-based classroom practices, and  
13 have provider competencies in engaging in  
14 stimulating, warm, and responsive adult-  
15 child interactions, consistent with the pro-  
16 gram performance standards referred to in  
17 section 641A(a)(1) of the Head Start Act  
18 (42 U.S.C. 9836a), appropriate to the age  
19 of the child; and

20 (ii) to assess the compensation levels nec-  
21 essary to attract, support, and retain a work-  
22 force of child care providers described in clause  
23 (i).

24 (B) Whether the State proposes to conduct the  
25 study required under subparagraph (A) by carrying

1 out a cost of quality study or survey that the State  
2 is currently conducting, as a requirement of its State  
3 plan under section 658E of the Child Care and De-  
4 velopment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
5 9858e).

6 (C) How the State will incorporate into the  
7 study information gathered through a public hearing  
8 to solicit input from relevant stakeholders including  
9 the infant and toddler child care workforce.

10 (D) How the State will use the results of the  
11 study to establish and annually update reimburse-  
12 ment rates for high-quality infant and toddler child  
13 care providers in the State.

14 (5) How the State will ensure and demonstrate  
15 that—

16 (A) the higher provider payment rates that  
17 the State proposes to pay under this Act are  
18 sufficient to achieve the compensation levels de-  
19 scribed in paragraph (4)(A)(ii), and attract,  
20 support, and retain child care providers de-  
21 scribed in paragraph (4)(A)(i); and

22 (B) the rates described in subparagraph  
23 (A) will keep pace with inflation.

1           (6) The need in the State for high-quality child  
2           care for infants and toddlers, based on a needs as-  
3           sessment—

4                   (A) that is conducted prior to the receipt  
5                   of the corresponding allotment and at least once  
6                   every 3 years consistent with the State plan;

7                   (B) that is conducted by the State Advi-  
8                   sory Council on Early Childhood Education and  
9                   Care (designated or established pursuant to sec-  
10                  tion 642B(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Head Start Act  
11                  (42 U.S.C. 9837b(b)(1)(A)(i))) or another enti-  
12                  ty as determined by the State; and

13                  (C) that identifies such need for geo-  
14                  graphic areas and special populations of infants  
15                  and toddlers, including children with disabil-  
16                  ities, homeless children, children in foster care,  
17                  children who are dual language learners, chil-  
18                  dren living in rural areas, and children whose  
19                  families work nontraditional hours.

20           (7) A unified approach to early care and learn-  
21           ing that begins prenatally and supports children and  
22           their families at least until the children enter kinder-  
23           garten, which includes a description of how the State  
24           will align infant and toddler child care with—

1 (A) other early care and learning pro-  
2 grams, including State-supported programs of  
3 quality preschool if applicable; and

4 (B) programs carried out under section  
5 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabil-  
6 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et  
7 seq.).

8 (8) How the State will support early childhood  
9 educators and K–3 teachers, including the best prac-  
10 tices that the State will use to support transitions  
11 into kindergarten and alignment of curricula, profes-  
12 sional development, and early learning standards, to  
13 reflect an integrated approach to enabling children  
14 to achieve substantial gains in key skill areas across  
15 their development.

16 (9) How the State will coordinate activities with  
17 other public or private agencies to ensure that, to  
18 the extent that services are available in the commu-  
19 nity, infants and toddlers are referred to local agen-  
20 cies or other appropriate providers, including com-  
21 munity-based organizations, for comprehensive  
22 health, mental health, family, and nutrition services  
23 similar to those provided through Early Head Start  
24 programs.

1           (10) How the State will address infant and tod-  
2           dler child care needs for populations that have acute  
3           barriers to accessing high-quality child care and the  
4           State's plan to increase the supply of high-quality  
5           child care slots for populations for which the unmet  
6           need is greatest, including populations listed in sec-  
7           tion 658E(c)(2)(M) of the Child Care and Develop-  
8           ment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
9           9858e(c)(2)(M)), with methods such as grants and  
10          contracts.

11          (11) How the State will, at the option of an In-  
12          dian tribe or tribal organization in the State, col-  
13          laborate and coordinate activities with the Indian  
14          tribe or tribal organization in the development of the  
15          State plan.

16          (12) A plan that describes how the State will  
17          ensure successful engagement by parents and fami-  
18          lies in their child's early care and learning and how  
19          this plan will promote engagement that continues  
20          from infant and toddler programs into preschool  
21          programs and beyond.

22          (13) How the State will collaborate and coordi-  
23          nate activities with early childhood educators and or-  
24          ganizations that foster the professional development

1 and collective engagement of the child care work-  
2 force.

3 (c) ASSURANCES.—Each such application shall in-  
4 clude each of the following:

5 (1) An assurance that the State will maintain,  
6 using the Child Care and Development Fund and  
7 the funds made available under section 5(c), the  
8 caseload of children that were served using the Child  
9 Care and Development Fund on the date of enact-  
10 ment of this Act.

11 (2) An assurance that the State will establish  
12 and support standards for high-quality child care for  
13 infants and toddlers in the State as described in sec-  
14 tion 7(a)(3).

15 (3) An assurance that the State will contribute  
16 a percentage toward the cost of activities authorized  
17 under section 5(b), toward the cost of activities au-  
18 thorized under section 5(c), and toward the cost of  
19 activities authorized under section 5(e), that is equal  
20 to the percentage that the State contributes under  
21 section 418(a)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42  
22 U.S.C. 618(a)(2)(C)) toward the cost of the child  
23 care authorized under section 418 of that Act (42  
24 U.S.C. 618).

1 **SEC. 7. STATE EXPANSION AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT**  
2 **ACTIVITIES.**

3 (a) EXPANDING ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY CHILD  
4 CARE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available  
6 through an allotment under section 5(b), the State  
7 shall reserve at least 80 percent for direct services  
8 provided through grants, contracts, or certificates, to  
9 expand access to high-quality child care for infants  
10 and toddlers and to increase parental options for  
11 and access to such care.

12 (2) PROMOTION OF QUALITY.—During the pe-  
13 riod beginning not later than the date on which the  
14 allotment is made and ending not later than 6  
15 months after that date, and every third year there-  
16 after, the State shall use the cost of high-quality  
17 child care study, described in section 6(b)(4), to en-  
18 sure that, for all infant and toddler child care  
19 slots—

20 (A) the child care is of sufficient quality;

21 (B) the providers of the care are supported  
22 along a career pathway to achieve higher levels  
23 of training and education; and

24 (C) provider payment rates are sufficient  
25 as described in section 6(b)(4)(A)(i).

1           (3) QUALITY STANDARDS.—The State shall en-  
2           sure that all infant and toddler child care providers,  
3           who participate in activities funded through the  
4           Child Care and Development Fund, meet quality  
5           standards by the end of fiscal year 2026, includ-  
6           ing—

7                   (A) ensuring that the providers enable lead  
8                   teachers and educators, regardless of setting, to  
9                   receive program quality funds reserved under  
10                  subsection (b), through grants, contracts, or  
11                  certificates, to prepare for meeting higher  
12                  standards of quality and to progress through  
13                  professional development goals;

14                  (B)(i) offering full-day, full-year care or  
15                  otherwise meeting the needs of working fami-  
16                  lies;

17                  (ii) meeting the requirements described in  
18                  section 6(b)(4)(A)(i)(III);

19                  (iii) ensuring individuals working directly  
20                  with infants and toddlers have the qualifica-  
21                  tions, knowledge, and skills to promote the  
22                  healthy social, emotional, cognitive, and phys-  
23                  ical development of children as appropriate to  
24                  the children's age, and attain the compensation  
25                  levels necessary to attract, support, and retain

1 a well-qualified workforce, in a manner aligned  
2 with the findings in the study entitled “Trans-  
3 forming the Workforce for Children Birth  
4 Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation”,  
5 issued by the National Academy of Sciences in  
6 April 2015;

7 (iv) aligning its activities with the State’s  
8 Early Learning and Development Guidelines  
9 that apply to infants and toddlers and the Head  
10 Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework;

11 (v) coordinating activities with other public  
12 or private agencies to ensure that, to the extent  
13 that services are available in the community, in-  
14 fants and toddlers are referred to local agencies  
15 or other appropriate providers, including com-  
16 munity-based organizations, for comprehensive  
17 health, mental health, family, and nutrition  
18 services, similar to those provided through  
19 Early Head Start programs; and

20 (vi) engaging with parents in their roles as  
21 first teachers and partnering with parents in  
22 their child’s early care and learning and transi-  
23 tion to pre-kindergarten or a Head Start pro-  
24 gram.

1           (4) ADDRESSING UNDERSERVED GEOGRAPHIC  
2 AREAS AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS.—

3           (A) IDENTIFICATION.—Based on a valid  
4 needs assessment referred to in section 6(b)(6),  
5 the State shall identify geographic areas and  
6 special populations described in that section.

7           (B) INCREASING AVAILABILITY OF CHILD  
8 CARE.—The State shall develop and implement  
9 a plan to increase the availability of high-quality  
10 child care (including by stabilizing the in-  
11 come of providers of such care)—

12                   (i) in geographic areas and for popu-  
13 lations identified under subparagraph (A);  
14 and

15                   (ii) to the extent practicable, in hard-  
16 to-serve areas or populations.

17       (b) ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF INFANT AND TOD-  
18 DLER CHILD CARE.—

19           (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the activi-  
20 ties described in paragraph (3) are interconnected  
21 and that each of the activities is critical to enhanc-  
22 ing the quality of infant and toddler child care.

23           (2) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The State shall re-  
24 serve at least 12 percent of funds made available  
25 through each allotment made under subsection (b),

1 (c), or (e) of section 5 to carry out activities de-  
2 scribed in paragraph (3), to increase the quality of  
3 child care programs for infants and toddlers in eligi-  
4 ble families.

5 (3) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in  
6 paragraph (2) shall consist of—

7 (A) activities that improve the skills and  
8 competencies of the infant and toddler child  
9 care workforce, including competencies specific  
10 to working with children who are culturally and  
11 linguistically diverse and children with disabil-  
12 ities, by providing a pathway to higher levels of  
13 training and education consistent with the find-  
14 ings in the National Academy of Sciences study  
15 described in subsection (a)(3)(B)(iii);

16 (B) activities that support training and  
17 technical assistance through a statewide net-  
18 work of infant and toddler specialists, infant  
19 and early childhood mental health consultants,  
20 or coach mentors, that provide onsite assistance  
21 directly to providers who receive funds under  
22 this Act;

23 (C) activities that provide startup grants,  
24 to purchase equipment and materials needed to  
25 provide high-quality early care and learning ex-

1           periences to infants and toddlers, such as cribs,  
2           changing tables, safety equipment, infant and  
3           toddler curricula, and age- and developmentally-  
4           appropriate toys; or

5           (D) activities that establish networks of  
6           family child care providers to share workforce  
7           training and technical assistance.

8           (4) STANDARDS.—The State shall use the  
9           funds described in paragraph (2) to ensure that in-  
10          fant and toddler child care providers meet relevant  
11          standards and shall develop statewide plans to im-  
12          prove the knowledge and competencies of the infant  
13          and toddler child care workforce, by implementing 1  
14          or more of the activities described in paragraph (3).

15          (5) COORDINATION.—The State shall coordi-  
16          nate the activities carried out under this subsection  
17          with other quality enhancement efforts funded  
18          through the Child Care and Development Fund.

19          (c) APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out  
20          activities under this section, a State shall comply with the  
21          requirements of this Act and the Child Care and Develop-  
22          ment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.).

23          (d) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts made  
24          available under this Act shall be used to supplement and

1 not supplant other Federal, State, and local public funds  
2 expended to provide child care for children under age 13.

3 **SEC. 8. TRIBAL APPLICATION.**

4 To be eligible to receive a grant under this Act  
5 through an allotment made under section 5(d), an Indian  
6 tribe or tribal organization shall submit to the Secretary  
7 an application, as a supplement to the application the tribe  
8 or tribal organization submits under section 6580(c) of  
9 the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990  
10 (42 U.S.C. 9858m(c)). Each such application shall contain  
11 such information as the Secretary may require, including:

12 (1) Information demonstrating that the Indian  
13 tribe or tribal organization meets the requirements  
14 for a grant or contract on section 6580(c) of such  
15 Act.

16 (2) At the election of the Indian tribe or tribal  
17 organization, a plan—

18 (A) to align programs for child care funded  
19 through the Child Care and Development Fund,  
20 Head Start (including Early Head Start) pro-  
21 grams, early childhood home visitation pro-  
22 grams under section 511 of the Social Security  
23 Act (42 U.S.C. 711), preschool programs, and  
24 early childhood programs relating to Indian and  
25 Native Hawaiian culture and language, to cre-

1           ate more aligned and seamless early care and  
2           learning in tribal communities; and

3                   (B) to combine funding for the programs  
4           described in subparagraph (A).

5           (3)(A) Information describing how the Indian  
6           tribe or tribal organization will increase the number  
7           of high-quality child care slots for eligible families  
8           with Indian or Native Hawaiian children, to ensure,  
9           by the end of fiscal year 2026, access to high-quality,  
10          culturally and linguistically appropriate infant  
11          and toddler child care for such eligible families in  
12          the tribal community (referred to in this section as  
13          “universal high-quality child care”).

14                   (B) The ambitious goals and measurable bench-  
15          marks that the Indian tribe or tribal organization  
16          will use to demonstrate progress toward achieving  
17          universal high-quality child care.

18 **SEC. 9. TRIBAL EARLY CARE AND LEARNING EXPANSION**

19                   **ACTIVITIES.**

20           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—An Indian tribe or tribal organi-  
21          zation that receives a grant through an allotment made  
22          under section 5(d) shall use the grant funds to provide,  
23          by the end of fiscal year 2026, access to high-quality, cul-  
24          turally and linguistically appropriate child care (or, in the  
25          case of an entity that submits a plan described in section

1 8(2), high-quality, culturally and linguistically appropriate  
2 early care and learning) (including related supports) for  
3 infants and toddlers for such eligible families in the tribal  
4 community.

5 (b) APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out  
6 activities under this section, an Indian tribe or tribal orga-  
7 nization shall comply with the requirements of this Act  
8 and the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of  
9 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.).