

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5774

To amend the Head Start Act to protect Head Start from proposals to eliminate the program and restore the Head Start program’s regional offices, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 17, 2025

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ (for herself, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. CARSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the Head Start Act to protect Head Start from proposals to eliminate the program and restore the Head Start program’s regional offices, and for other purposes.

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

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Every Child Deserves  
5       a Head Start Act of 2025”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that the Head Start program—

8               (1) is an important program that has existed  
9       since 1965 to ensure eligible children receive an op-

1 portunity to enhance their cognitive, social, and emo-  
2 tional development; and

3 (2) has retained broad bipartisan Congressional  
4 support because it serves children in every congres-  
5 sional district by—

6 (A) creating a learning environment that  
7 supports children’s growth in language, literacy,  
8 mathematics, science, social and emotional  
9 functioning, creative arts, physical skills, and  
10 approaches to learning; and

11 (B) providing to eligible children and their  
12 families health, educational, nutritional, social,  
13 and other services that are determined, based  
14 on family needs assessments, to be necessary.

15 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE HEAD START ACT.**

16 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9801 et seq.) is  
17 amended by inserting after section 640 the following:

18 **“SEC. 640A. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF HEAD**  
19 **START.**

20 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established  
21 the Office of Head Start of the Administration for Chil-  
22 dren and Families, or any successor agency, of the De-  
23 partment of Health and Human services, including the  
24 central office and 12 regional offices, that operated in the

1 Office of Head Start immediately before January 20,  
2 2025.

3 “(b) STRUCTURE, STAFFING, AND FUNCTIONS OF  
4 THE OFFICE OF HEAD START.—The Office of Head Start  
5 established in subsection (a) shall—

6 “(1) reinstate or retain the internal organiza-  
7 tional structure in place at the Office of Head Start  
8 immediately before January 20, 2025;

9 “(2) ensure the Office of Head Start meets and  
10 sustains full-time equivalent staffing levels of per-  
11 sonnel that are not less than the personnel staffing  
12 levels of the Office of Head Start immediately before  
13 January 20, 2025; and

14 “(3) carry out the functions of the Office of  
15 Head Start, including the overall direction, policy,  
16 budget planning and development, and administra-  
17 tion and oversight of Head Start program operations  
18 authorized under the Head Start Act, immediately  
19 before January 20, 2025.

20 “(c) STRUCTURE, FUNCTIONS, AND STAFFING OF  
21 THE REGIONAL OFFICES.—Each regional office estab-  
22 lished under subsection (a) shall be—

23 “(1) headed by a Regional Program Manager  
24 who reports to the Director of the Program Oper-  
25 ations Division, and be organized consistent with the

1 organizational structure in place immediately before  
2 January 20, 2025, with—

3 “(A) regions I through X, located in the  
4 10 ACF geographical regions, focusing pri-  
5 marily on grants operating in their respective  
6 regions;

7 “(B) region XI, located at the Office of  
8 Head Start central office, focusing primarily on  
9 American Indian and Alaskan Native Head  
10 Start grants; and

11 “(C) region XII, located at the Office of  
12 Head Start central office, focusing primarily on  
13 Migrant and Seasonal Head Start grants for  
14 agencies that serve the children and families of  
15 migrant and seasonal farm workers;

16 “(2) responsible for the same functions as they  
17 were before January 20, 2025, including—

18 “(A) administering funding, ongoing over-  
19 sight and monitoring, and training and tech-  
20 nical assistance to the grant recipient agencies  
21 that provide services to Head Start children  
22 and families; and

23 “(B) providing ongoing management of  
24 Regional Head Start program operations, in-  
25 cluding State Collaboration grants, and liaising

1           within each Region to the Office of Child Care  
2           and the Office of Grants Management; and

3           “(3) staffed at full-time equivalent personnel  
4           levels that are not less than the full-time equivalent  
5           personnel levels in place in each regional office im-  
6           mediately before January 20, 2025.

7           “(d) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY TO RESTRUCTURE  
8           THE OFFICE OF HEAD START, INCLUDING THE CENTRAL  
9           OFFICE AND 12 REGIONAL OFFICES, AND TO REDUCE  
10          THE WORKFORCE.—The Secretary of Health and Human  
11          Services may not—

12           “(1) modify the structure, functions, or respon-  
13          sibilities for the Office of Head Start and its staff,  
14          including the central office and 12 regional offices;  
15          or

16           “(2) reduce the full-time equivalent employment  
17          levels established under this section for the Office of  
18          Head Start, including within the central office and  
19          12 regional offices, established in subsection (a),  
20          subject to the availability of funds.

21          “(e) NOTICE.—Not later than 60 days before the  
22          Secretary of Health and Human Services submits to the  
23          President a plan under which the Secretary proposes to  
24          take an action that is subject to a limitation under sub-  
25          section (d), the Secretary shall—

1           “(1) transmit such plan to the Committee on  
2       Education and Workforce of the House of Rep-  
3       resentatives and the Committee on Health, Edu-  
4       cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

5           “(2) make available to the public a copy of such  
6       plan and a justification that supports taking such  
7       action, and an explanation of how the Office of  
8       Head Start will support Head Start agencies that  
9       could be affected by such action.”.

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