

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7637

To amend the Head Start Act to improve the Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FROST, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mrs. GRIJALVA, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. LIEU, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SIMON, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Head Start Act to improve the Act.

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 “Head Start for Amer-
5 ica’s Children Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

7 Section 636 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831)
8 is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “children’s
2 growth” and inserting “the growth of infants, tod-
3 dlers, and children”; and

4 (2) in paragraph (2)—

5 (A) by striking “children” and inserting
6 “infants, toddlers, children,”; and

7 (B) by inserting “mental health,” before
8 “educational”.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 Section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832)
11 is amended—

12 (1) in the paragraph relating to “full calendar
13 year”—

14 (A) by striking “means all” and inserting
15 “means—

16 “(A) all”;

17 (B) by striking the period at the end and
18 inserting “; and”; and

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

20 “(B) with respect to the provision of Head
21 Start (including Early Head Start) center-based
22 services in a year, a minimum of 1,380 hours
23 during that year.”;

(2) in the paragraph relating to “Indian tribe”,
by striking “The term” and inserting “(A) The term
‘Indian’ means a member of an Indian tribe.

“(B) The term”;

(3) in the paragraph relating to “State”—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking “The term” and insert-
ing “(A) The term”;

(ii) by striking “and the Common-
wealth” and inserting “the Common-
wealth”; and

(iii) by striking the period at the end
and inserting “, and each of the Freely As-
sociated States.”;

(B) by striking the second sentence; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) The term ‘Freely Associated States’
means the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the
Federated States of Micronesia, and the Repub-
lic of Palau.”;

(4) in the paragraph relating to “interrelater
reliability”—

(A) by striking “means the extent to which
2” and inserting “means the extent to which—

“(A) 2”;

1 (B) by striking the period at the end and
2 inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(B) such raters or observers are ade-
5 quately trained to recognize linguistically and
6 culturally appropriate practices.”;

7 (5) by striking the paragraph relating to “lim-
8 ited English proficient”;

9 (6) in the paragraph relating to “professional
10 development”—

11 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “as
12 appropriate” and inserting “including sup-
13 porting linguistically and culturally responsive
14 learning outcomes”; and

15 (B) in subparagraph (G)—

16 (i) in clause (i), by inserting “mental
17 health,” after “and development”;

18 (ii) in clause (iv)(II)—

19 (I) by redesignating item (bb) as
20 item (cc); and

21 (II) by inserting after item (aa)
22 the following:

23 “(bb) (for teachers for Na-
24 tive American Head Start agen-
25 cies) the Native American Child

1 Outcomes Framework described
2 in section 640(p);” and
3 (iii) in clause (v), by striking “limited
4 English proficient children” and inserting
5 “children who are developing English pro-
6 ficiency”;

7 (7) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(27) The term ‘annual adjustment percent-
9 age’, used with respect to appropriations made
10 under this subchapter for a fiscal year (referred to
11 in this paragraph as the ‘determination fiscal year’),
12 means the estimated percentage increase (if any), as
13 determined by the Secretary of Health and Human
14 Services, in the Consumer Price Index For All
15 Urban Consumers, issued by the Bureau of Labor
16 Statistics, occurring in the most recent fiscal year
17 ending prior to the beginning of such determination
18 fiscal year.

19 “(28) The term ‘assistive technology’ has the
20 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Assistive
21 Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3002).

22 “(29) The term ‘Bureau-funded school’ has the
23 meaning given the term in section 1141 of the Edu-
24 cation Amendments of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 2021).

1 “(30) The term ‘chemical restraint’ means a
2 drug or medication, used on a student to control be-
3 havior or restrict freedom of movement, that is
4 not—

5 “(A) prescribed by a licensed physician, or
6 other qualified health professional acting under
7 the scope of the professional’s authority under
8 State law, for the standard treatment of a stu-
9 dent’s medical or psychiatric condition; and

10 “(B) administered as prescribed by the li-
11 censed physician or other qualified health pro-
12 fessional acting under the scope of the profes-
13 sional’s authority under State law.

14 “(31) The term ‘developing English pro-
15 ficiency’—

16 “(A) used with respect to a child, means a
17 child—

18 “(i)(I) who was not born in the
19 United States or whose native language is
20 a language other than English;

21 “(II)(aa) who is a Native American or
22 a native resident of Guam, American
23 Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United
24 States, the Commonwealth of the Northern

1 Mariana Islands, or a Freely Associated
2 State; and

3 “(bb) who comes from an environment
4 where a language other than English has
5 had a significant impact on the child’s level
6 of English language proficiency; or

7 “(III) who is migratory, whose native
8 language is a language other than English,
9 and who comes from an environment where
10 a language other than English is domi-
11 nant; and

12 “(ii) whose difficulties in speaking or
13 understanding the English language may
14 be sufficient to deny such child—

15 “(I) the ability to successfully
16 achieve in a classroom in which the
17 language of instruction is English; or

18 “(II) the opportunity to partici-
19 pate fully in society; and

20 “(B) used with respect to an adult, means
21 an adult who is learning English in addition to
22 their native language.

23 “(32) The term ‘mechanical restraint’ means
24 any device or equipment that is used to restrict a
25 student’s freedom of movement.

1 “(33)(A) The term ‘Native American’ means an
2 Indian or a Native Hawaiian.

3 “(B) The term ‘Native American Head Start
4 agency’, used with respect to a Head Start program
5 (including an Early Head Start program) means—

6 “(i) an Indian tribe that operates such a
7 program;

8 “(ii) a Native Hawaiian Head Start agency
9 that operates such a program; or

10 “(iii) an entity that is designated by an In-
11 dian tribe to operate such a program on its be-
12 half.

13 “(C) The term ‘Native American language’ has
14 the meaning given the term in section 103 of the
15 Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2902).

16 “(34)(A) The term ‘Native Hawaiian’ has the
17 meaning given the term in section 6207 of the Na-
18 tive Hawaiian Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7517).

19 “(B) The term ‘Native Hawaiian educational
20 organization’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
21 tion 6207 of the Native Hawaiian Education Act (20
22 U.S.C. 7517).

23 “(C) The term ‘Native Hawaiian Head Start
24 agency’ means a Head Start agency (including an
25 Early Head Start agency) operated by a Native Ha-

1 waiian organization or a Native Hawaiian edu-
2 cational organization, for the purpose of serving chil-
3 dren and families in a manner that is develop-
4 mentally, linguistically, and culturally appropriate
5 for Native Hawaiians.

6 “(D) The term ‘Native Hawaiian language’ has
7 the meaning given the term in section 6207 of the
8 Native Hawaiian Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7517).

9 “(E) The term ‘Native Hawaiian organization’
10 has the meaning given the term in section 6207 of
11 the Native Hawaiian Education Act (20 U.S.C.
12 7517).

13 “(35) The term ‘physical restraint’ means a
14 personal restriction that immobilizes a student or re-
15 duces the ability of a student to move the student’s
16 torso, arms, legs, or head freely.

17 “(36) The term ‘seclusion’ means the involun-
18 tary confinement of a student alone in a room or
19 area from which the student is physically prevented
20 from leaving, except that such term does not include
21 a time out.

22 “(37) The term ‘universal design for learning’
23 has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the
24 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).”;
25 and

1 (8) by reordering the paragraphs of that section
2 637 (as amended by or added by paragraphs (1)
3 through (7) of this section) to appear in alphabetical
4 order by the first term defined in each paragraph of
5 that section 637, and renumbering such paragraphs
6 as so reordered.

7 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 The Head Start Act is amended by inserting after
9 section 637 (42 U.S.C. 9832) the following:

10 **“SEC. 637A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
12 priated, and there is appropriated out of any money in
13 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the Secretary
14 to carry out this subchapter (other than provisions funded
15 under subsection (b))—

16 “(1) for fiscal year 2026, \$144,872,000,000;
17 and

18 “(2) for each succeeding fiscal year, the amount
19 appropriated under this section for the fiscal year
20 preceding that succeeding fiscal year, increased to
21 reflect the annual adjustment percentage.

22 “(b) ADDITIONAL PROJECTS.—There are authorized
23 to be appropriated, and there are appropriated out of any
24 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the
25 Secretary—

1 “(1) for the period of fiscal years 2026 through
2 2030—

3 “(A) \$5,000,000,000 for improving or pur-
4 chasing Head Start (including Early Head
5 Start) program facilities under section 644(g),
6 based on demonstrated need, in addition to any
7 amounts otherwise available for activities de-
8 scribed in this subparagraph; and

9 “(B) \$91,575,000 to facilitate children’s
10 access to Head Start (including Early Head
11 Start) services through age-appropriate trans-
12 portation, including through the purchase of ve-
13 hicles under section 644(g), based on dem-
14 onstrated need, in addition to any amounts oth-
15 erwise available for activities described in this
16 subparagraph;

17 “(2) \$37,500,000 to fund the Rebuilding the
18 Head Start Workforce Grant program under section
19 653(c) for the period of fiscal years 2026 through
20 2030;

21 “(3) \$95,000,000 to fund the community eligi-
22 bility pilot program under section 657C for the pe-
23 riod of fiscal years 2026 through 2030;

24 “(4) \$500,000,000 to fund the Head Start
25 agency and institutions of higher education partner-

1 ship activities under section 657D for the period of
2 fiscal years 2026 through 2030;

3 “(5) \$863,000,000 to enable Head Start (in-
4 cluding Early Head Start) agencies to provide cen-
5 ter-based services under this subchapter for more
6 than 1,380 hours (which may include hours during
7 summer months) during a year, through extended
8 operation grants under section 657E, based on dem-
9 onstrated need for the period of fiscal years 2026
10 through 2030; and

11 “(6) \$1,625,000,000 to fund the Head Start
12 agency and child care provider partnership activities
13 under section 657F for the period of fiscal years
14 2026 through 2030, in addition to any amounts oth-
15 erwise available for activities described in this para-
16 graph.”.

17 **SEC. 5. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

18 Section 638 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9833)
19 is amended—

20 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “The Secretary”;

21 (2) by striking “which (1) will” and inserting
22 the following: “which—

23 “(1) will”;

24 (3) by striking “readiness; and (2) will” and in-
25 serting the following: “readiness; and

1 “(2) will”; and

2 (4) by adding at the end the following:

3 “(b) The Secretary shall ensure that the financial as-
4 sistance provided under subsection (a) sufficiently ac-
5 counts for the costs associated with serving children with
6 disabilities.”.

7 **SEC. 6. REGIONAL OFFICES.**

8 The Head Start Act is amended by striking section
9 639 (42 U.S.C. 9834) and inserting the following:

10 **“SEC. 639. REGIONAL OFFICES FOR THE HEAD START PRO-**
11 **GRAM.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain at
13 least 10 regional offices and 2 program offices of the Of-
14 fice of Head Start and ensure that the officers and em-
15 ployees of those offices effectively and efficiently serve
16 Head Start programs (including, for purposes of this sec-
17 tion, Early Head Start programs) by—

18 “(1) scaling up effective technical assistance
19 and training activities aligned with section 648;

20 “(2) supporting such programs at the local level
21 and enabling the programs to comply with require-
22 ments, by establishing meaningful program perform-
23 ance standards under section 641A(a) and carrying
24 out monitoring activities under section 641A(c), in-

1 including standards and monitoring for child health
2 and safety; and

3 “(3) improving the quality of programs and
4 services that best meet the needs of children and
5 families in local communities, including addressing
6 staff recruitment and retention challenges.

7 “(b) REGIONS AND PROGRAMS.—The Secretary
8 shall—

9 “(1) develop proposals for the regions served by
10 regional offices of the Office of Head Start based on
11 factors that include considerations concerning the
12 number of Head Start agencies (including Early
13 Head Start agencies) and eligible children and fami-
14 lies covered by a region, capacity of a regional office
15 to coordinate services critical to administration of
16 Head Start programs, and capacity of a regional of-
17 fice to meet any cultural and linguistic expertise
18 needs for a region;

19 “(2) seek public comment on the proposals
20 prior to any geographic designations of regions for
21 the regional offices; and

22 “(3) designate at least 1 program office for Na-
23 tive American Head Start programs and 1 program
24 office for migrant and seasonal Head Start pro-
25 grams.

1 “(c) ADEQUATE STAFFING.—The head of each such
 2 regional or program office shall ensure that all Head Start
 3 programs served by the region or program shall have ade-
 4 quate staffing to meet the requirements of subsection
 5 (a).”.

6 **SEC. 7. ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS; LIMITATIONS ON ASSIST-**
 7 **ANCE.**

8 (a) ALLOTMENT.—Section 640(a) of the Head Start
 9 Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “section 639”
 11 and inserting “section 637A(a)”;

12 (2) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

14 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “Indian”
 15 each place it appears and inserting “Native
 16 American”;

17 (ii) in clause (iv)—

18 (I) by striking “the Republic of
 19 Palau,”;

20 (II) by inserting “, and each of
 21 the Freely Associated States” before
 22 “(for”; and

23 (III) by adding “and” at the end;

24 (iii) by striking clause (v);

- 1 (iv) by redesignating clause (vi) as
2 clause (v); and
3 (v) in clause (v), as so redesignated—
4 (I) by striking “Indian” and in-
5 serting “Native American”; and
6 (II) by striking “2007” and in-
7 serting “2025”;
8 (B) in subparagraph (C)(i)—
9 (i) in the matter preceding subclause
10 (I), by striking “section 639” and inserting
11 “section 637A(a)”;
12 (ii) in subclause (I), by striking “and”
13 at the end;
14 (iii) by redesignating subclause (II) as
15 subclause (III);
16 (iv) by inserting after subclause (I)
17 the following:
18 “(II) the Secretary shall set aside not less
19 than \$40,000,000 for the Head Start Career
20 Advancement Partnership Program activities
21 under section 648(h); and”; and
22 (v) in subclause (III)(cc), as so redesi-
23 gnated, by striking “and (g)” and insert-
24 ing “(g), and (h)”;

1 (C) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(D) The Secretary shall, subject to consultation with
4 Indian tribes, representatives of Native American Head
5 Start agencies, and members of Indian tribes and Native
6 Hawaiian communities, reserve not less than \$40,000,000
7 to fund research, demonstration, and evaluation activities
8 under section 650, of which not more than \$10,000,000
9 for each fiscal year shall be available to carry out section
10 650(k).”;

11 (D) by redesignating subparagraphs (F)
12 and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respec-
13 tively;

14 (E) by inserting after subparagraph (E)
15 the following:

16 “(F) The Secretary shall reserve at least \$6,000,000
17 to carry out section 639, concerning the regional offices
18 and program offices of the Office of Head Start.”; and

19 (F) in subparagraph (G), as so redesign-
20 nated—

21 (i) by striking “section 639” and in-
22 serting “section 637A(a)”; and

23 (ii) by striking “through (E)” and in-
24 serting “through (F)”;

25 (3) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

2 (i) in clause (i)—

3 (I) in subclause (I), by striking
4 “and” at the end;

5 (II) in subclause (II)—

6 (aa) by striking “Indian”
7 and inserting “Native Amer-
8 ican”; and

9 (bb) by adding “and” at the
10 end; and

11 (III) by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(III) make awards to Head
14 Start agencies (including Early Head
15 Start agencies) based on dem-
16 onstrated need, through reservations
17 for fiscal year 2026, of—

18 “(aa) \$300,000,000 for con-
19 versions of program slots under
20 subsection (f)(2)(C);

21 “(bb) \$4,404,000,000 for
22 extended operation under section
23 642(j), to enable Head Start (in-
24 cluding Early Head Start) agen-
25 cies to provide center-based serv-

1 ices under this subchapter on a
2 full calendar year schedule; and

3 “(cc) \$80,000,000 for men-
4 tal health support under section
5 649;”; and

6 (ii) in clause (ii)—

7 (I) by striking subclause (I);

8 (II) by striking “clause (i)—”
9 and all that follows through “for fiscal
10 year 2011” and inserting “clause (i),
11 for fiscal year 2026”;

12 (III) by striking “Indian” and in-
13 serting “Native American”;

14 (IV) by redesignating items (aa)
15 and (bb) as subclauses (I) and (II)
16 and aligning the margins of those
17 subclauses with the margins of sub-
18 clauses (I) and (II) of clause (i); and

19 (V) in subclause (II), as so redес-
20 ignated, by striking “item (aa)” and
21 inserting “subclause (I)”; and

22 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

23 (i) in clauses (i) and (ii)(I), by strik-
24 ing “Indian” and inserting “Native Amer-
25 ican”;

1 (ii) in clause (i), by striking “sub-
 2 clauses (I)(aa) and (II)(bb) of clause (ii),
 3 of subparagraph (A)” and inserting
 4 “clause (ii)(II), of subparagraph (A)”; and
 5 (iii) in clause (ii)(I), by striking “sec-
 6 tion 639” and inserting “section 637A(a)”;

7 (4) in paragraph (4)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking
 9 “(which shall remain available through the end
 10 of fiscal year 2012)”;

11 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 12 “\$100,000,000” each place it appears and in-
 13 serting “\$200,000,000”;

14 (C) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by inserting “,
 15 serving infants and toddlers, and serving chil-
 16 dren with disabilities,” before “and may con-
 17 sider”;

18 (D) in subparagraph (D)—

19 (i) in clause (i), by striking “clause
 20 (iv) or (v) of paragraph (2)(B)” and in-
 21 serting “paragraph (2)(B)(iv)”;

22 (ii) in clause (ii)—

23 (I) by striking “Indian” and in-
 24 serting “Native American”;

1 (II) by striking “3 percent” and
2 inserting “4.5 percent”; and

3 (III) by striking “section 649(k)”
4 and inserting “section 650(k”;

5 (iii) in clause (iii), by striking “section
6 649(l)” and inserting “section 650(l)”;

7 (iv) in clause (iv)(I)(aa)—

8 (I) by striking “the covered per-
9 centage” and inserting “55 percent”;

10 (II) by striking “that covered
11 percentage” and inserting “that 55
12 percent”; and

13 (III) by striking “the poverty
14 line” each place it appears and insert-
15 ing “60 percent of the State’s median
16 income for a family of the same size”;
17 and

18 (E) by striking subparagraph (E);

19 (5) in paragraph (5)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter
21 preceding clause (i), by inserting “(except that
22 an amount of not less than \$3,580,000,000 (re-
23 ferred to in this Act as the ‘additional com-
24 pensation amount’) shall be used for fiscal year
25 2026 to enable Head Start agencies to improve

1 that compensation of the personnel, workers,
2 and counselors as described in section 653)” be-
3 fore “in the manner”; and

4 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
6 by inserting “, not used under subpara-
7 graph (A),” after “remaining funds”;

8 (ii) in clause (i)—

9 (I) by striking “limited English
10 proficient children” and inserting
11 “children who are developing English
12 proficiency”; and

13 (II) by inserting “children with
14 disabilities,” after “farmworker fami-
15 lies,”;

16 (iii) by striking clause (v) and insert-
17 ing the following:

18 “(v) Ensuring that agencies providing cen-
19 ter-based Early Head Start or Head Start pro-
20 grams establish and maintain hours of program
21 operation that meet full calendar year require-
22 ments, to the extent required by section 642(j),
23 including by increasing the number of weeks of
24 operation in a calendar year.”;

1 (iv) in clause (vii), by inserting “and
 2 in an age-appropriate manner to facilitate
 3 access to services” after “safely”; and

4 (v) in clause (viii), by striking the pe-
 5 riod at the end and inserting “, consistent
 6 with the requirements of section 653.”;
 7 and

8 (6) in paragraph (7)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 10 “paragraph (2)(C)(i)(II)(aa)” and inserting
 11 “paragraph (2)(C)(i)(III)(aa)”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (i) by striking “cost-of-living” and in-
 14 serting “cost of living”; and

15 (ii) by striking “percentage change”
 16 and inserting “percentage increase (if
 17 any)”;

18 (C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “the
 19 Federated” and all that follows and inserting
 20 “or the Freely Associated States.”.

21 (b) FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 640(b)(4) of the
 22 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(b)(4)) is amended by
 23 striking “major disaster” and inserting “major disaster or
 24 emergency declared under section 401 or 501 of the Rob-

1 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
2 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170, 5191)’’.

3 (c) CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.—Section 640(d)
4 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(d)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) by inserting ‘‘, in coordination with the
7 Secretary of Education,’’ after ‘‘Secretary
8 shall’’;

9 (B) by inserting ‘‘, subject to such regula-
10 tions as the Secretary of Health and Human
11 Services may prescribe’’ after ‘‘assure that’’;
12 and

13 (C) by striking ‘‘2009’’ and inserting
14 ‘‘2026’’; and

15 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking ‘‘special needs
16 of such children’’ and inserting ‘‘needs of such chil-
17 dren with disabilities who are determined to be eligi-
18 ble’’.

19 (d) LOCALLY DESIGNED OR SPECIALIZED SERVICE
20 DELIVERY MODELS.—Section 640(f) of the Head Start
21 Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(f)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking ‘‘the Improv-
23 ing Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007’’
24 and inserting ‘‘the Head Start for America’s Chil-
25 dren Act’’; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
3 “and” at the end;

4 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
5 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

7 “(C) the conversion of Head Start pro-
8 gram slots to Early Head Start program slots
9 and for enabling programs to meet the needs of
10 families in their communities through a simple
11 and streamlined process, such as procedures
12 that relate to enabling the programs to meet
13 those needs through—

14 “(i) preparation of staff for teaching,
15 caring for, and supporting the development
16 of infants and toddlers, as applicable;

17 “(ii) planning for changes in facilities
18 and outdoor space; and

19 “(iii) staff recruitment, training, and
20 professional development.”.

21 (e) EXPANSION CONSIDERATIONS.—Section 640(g)
22 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(g)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (C)(iv), by inserting
25 “, including kinship care” before the semicolon;

1 (B) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “,
2 including whether the applicant is proposing to
3 operate a program within a local area with a
4 high percentage of low-income families” before
5 the semicolon;

6 (C) in subparagraph (G), by striking
7 “and” at the end;

8 (D) in subparagraph (H), by striking the
9 period and inserting a semicolon; and

10 (E) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(I) the extent to which the applicant will
12 provide for or facilitate the provision of age-ap-
13 propriate transportation for eligible children, in-
14 cluding transportation for homeless children, to
15 facilitate their participation in the program;
16 and

17 “(J) the extent to which the applicant pro-
18 vides to program staff compensation and bene-
19 fits that are adequate to attract and retain
20 qualified staff for program quality, consistent
21 with the requirements of section 653.”; and

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “the poverty
23 line” and inserting “60 percent of the State median
24 income for a family of the same size”.

1 (f) HOURS OF SERVICES.—Section 640(k) of the
 2 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(k)) is amended by strik-
 3 ing “(k)” and all that follows through “The provisions”
 4 and inserting “(k) The provisions”.

5 (g) MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START PRO-
 6 GRAMS.—Section 640(l) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
 7 9835(l)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (3)—

9 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 10 (A), by striking “Indian” and inserting “Indian
 11 (including Alaska Native) and Native Hawai-
 12 ian”; and

13 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “In-
 14 dian” and inserting “Native American”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (4)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (i) by striking “tribal” and inserting
 18 “Tribal”; and

19 (ii) by inserting “and with Native
 20 American Head Start agencies (which may
 21 be Native Hawaiian Head Start agencies)”
 22 before the semicolon; and

23 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
 24 “and Native Hawaiian,” after “Alaska Na-
 25 tive,”.

1 (h) CURRICULA GENERALLY.—Section 640(o) of the
2 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(o)) is amended by insert-
3 ing “(except for curricula for Native American Head Start
4 programs)” before “be aligned”.

5 (i) CURRICULA AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
6 FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HEAD START PROGRAMS.—Sec-
7 tion 640 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835) is
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(p)(1) Notwithstanding subsection (o), the Sec-
10 retary shall consult with Indian tribes, representatives of
11 Native American Head Start agencies, and members of
12 Indian and Native Hawaiian communities to determine
13 appropriate curricula and instructional materials that—

14 “(A) preserve the languages and cultures of In-
15 dian tribes and Native Hawaiian communities, as
16 the case may be;

17 “(B) align with a Native American Child Out-
18 comes Framework, which shall be developed through
19 consultation with Tribal governments and Native
20 American Head Start agencies and shall include
21 goals concerning Native American languages and lin-
22 guistically and culturally responsive teaching and
23 learning methods; and

1 “(C) provide for instruction in a Native Amer-
 2 ican language and support linguistically and cul-
 3 turally responsive education and learning.

4 “(2) Used with respect to a Native American Head
 5 Start (including an Early Head Start) program, a ref-
 6 erence in this subchapter to the Head Start Child Out-
 7 comes Framework shall be considered to be a reference
 8 to the Native American Child Outcomes Framework.”.

9 **SEC. 8. DESIGNATION OF HEAD START AGENCIES.**

10 (a) SYSTEM FOR DESIGNATION RENEWAL.—Section
 11 641(c) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9836(c)) is
 12 amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (7)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking
 15 “Indian” and inserting “Native American”; and

16 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

17 (i) by striking “tribal” and inserting
 18 “Tribal”;

19 (ii) by inserting “, or consultation
 20 with a Native Hawaiian organization or a
 21 Native Hawaiian educational organization
 22 and shall engage in consultation with a
 23 representative of the Native American
 24 Head Start agency,” before “for the pur-
 25 pose”; and

1 (iii) by striking “Indian” each place it
2 appears and inserting “Native American”;
3 and

4 (2) in paragraph (10), by striking “and Labor”
5 each place it appears and inserting “and Work-
6 force”.

7 (b) DESIGNATION WHEN NO ENTITY IS RE-
8 NEWED.—Section 641(d)(2) of the Head Start Act (42
9 U.S.C. 9836(d)(2)) is amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “mental
11 health,” before “educational,”;

12 (2) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “linguis-
13 tically, culturally, and” before “developmentally”
14 each place it appears;

15 (3) in subparagraph (H)—

16 (A) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the
17 end;

18 (B) by redesignating clause (vi) as clause
19 (vii); and

20 (C) by inserting after clause (v) the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(vi) entities supporting the mental
23 health and well-being of children;”;

24 (4) in subparagraph (J)—

25 (A) in clause (iii)—

1 (i) in subclause (I), by striking “;
2 and” and inserting “, including, in the
3 case of Native American Head Start pro-
4 grams (including Early Head Start pro-
5 grams), services promoting literacy in Na-
6 tive American languages;”;

7 (ii) in subclause (II), by inserting
8 “and” at the end; and

9 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(III) mental health resources;”;

12 and

13 (B) in clause (v)(II), by inserting “, in-
14 cluding, in the case of Native American Head
15 Start programs (including Early Head Start
16 programs), services promoting literacy and com-
17 munication in Native American languages” be-
18 fore the semicolon; and

19 (5) in subparagraph (K)—

20 (A) by striking “limited English proficient
21 children” and “children who are developing
22 English proficiency”; and

23 (B) by inserting “or Native American”
24 after “English”.

1 (c) PROHIBITION.—Section 641(e) of the Head Start
2 Act (42 U.S.C. 9836(e)) is amended—

3 (1) by striking the subsection heading and in-
4 serting the following:

5 “(e) PROHIBITION AGAINST NON-NATIVE AMERICAN
6 HEAD START AGENCY RECEIVING A GRANT FOR A NA-
7 TIVE AMERICAN HEAD START PROGRAM.—”;

8 (2) in paragraph (1)—

9 (A) by striking “non-Indian” and inserting
10 “non-Native American”; and

11 (B) by striking “an Indian” and inserting
12 “a Native American”; and

13 (3) in paragraph (2)—

14 (A) by striking “no Indian” and inserting
15 “no Native American”;

16 (B) by striking “an Indian” each place it
17 appears and inserting “a Native American”;
18 and

19 (C) by striking “a non-Indian” and insert-
20 ing “a non-Native American”.

21 (d) COMMUNITY.—Section 641(h) of the Head Start
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 9836(h)) is amended—

23 (1) by striking “tribal” and inserting “Tribal”;
24 and

1 (2) by inserting “an area served by a Native
 2 Hawaiian organization or Native Hawaiian edu-
 3 cational organization,” before “or a neighborhood”.

4 **SEC. 9. STANDARDS AND MONITORING.**

5 (a) STANDARDS.—Section 641A(a) of the Head Start
 6 Act (42 U.S.C. 9836a(a)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
 9 “mental health,” before “parental involve-
 10 ment,”; and

11 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

12 (i) in clause (ix), by striking “and” at
 13 the end;

14 (ii) in clause (x)—

15 (I) by striking “limited English
 16 proficient children” and inserting
 17 “children who are developing English
 18 proficiency”; and

19 (II) by adding “and” at the end;
 20 and

21 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 22 lowing:

23 “(xi) abilities related to Native Amer-
 24 ican languages and cultures, in the case of
 25 a Head Start program (which may be an

1 Early Head Start program) operated by a
2 Native American Head Start agency, if the
3 Native American Head Start agency elects
4 to focus on the preservation and revitaliza-
5 tion of Native American languages and
6 cultures in accordance with the Native
7 American Child Outcomes Framework;”;
8 and

9 (2) in paragraph (2)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
11 “services for children with disabilities,” before
12 “administration,”;

13 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

14 (i) in clause (i), by striking “the Im-
15 proving Head Start for School Readiness
16 Act of 2007” and inserting “the Head
17 Start for America’s Children Act”;

18 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking “section
19 649(j)” and inserting “section 650(j)”;

20 (iii) in clause (vi), by inserting “and
21 mental health” before “services and phys-
22 ical”;

23 (iv) in clause (ix), by striking “and”
24 at the end;

1 (v) in clause (x), by adding “and” at
2 the end; and

3 (vi) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(xi) standards and guidelines related
6 to Native American languages and cul-
7 tures, in the case of a Head Start program
8 (which may be an Early Head Start pro-
9 gram) operated by a Native American
10 Head Start agency, if the Native American
11 Head Start agency elects to focus on the
12 preservation and revitalization of Native
13 American languages and cultures in ac-
14 cordance with the Native American Child
15 Outcomes Framework;”;

16 (C) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking
17 “the Improving Head Start for School Readiness
18 Act of 2007” and inserting “the Head
19 Start for America’s Children Act”; and

20 (D) in subparagraph (D)—

21 (i) by striking “consult with” and in-
22 serting “generally defer to”;

23 (ii) by inserting “or Native Hawaiian
24 organizations or Native Hawaiian edu-
25 cational organizations,” before “experts”;

1 (iii) by inserting “and Native Hawai-
2 ian,” before “early childhood education”;
3 and

4 (iv) by inserting “and revitalization,
5 cultural preservation,” after “language ac-
6 quisition”.

7 (b) MEASURES.—Section 641A(b) of the Head Start
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 9836a(b)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1)—

10 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
11 through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv) and
12 aligning the margins of those clauses with the
13 margins of the clauses in paragraph (5)(A) of
14 that section;

15 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), as
16 so redesignated, by striking “The Secretary, in
17 consultation” and inserting “The Secretary
18 shall—

19 “(A) in consultation”;

20 (C) in subparagraph (A), as so des-
21 ignated—

22 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
23 by striking “shall”;

1 (ii) in clause (ii), as so redesignated,
2 by striking “special needs” and inserting
3 “disabilities”; and

4 (iii) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
5 by striking the period and inserting “;
6 and”; and

7 (D) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(B) in consultation with Indian tribes,
9 representatives of Native American Head Start
10 agencies, and members of Indian tribes and Na-
11 tive Hawaiian communities, use relevant re-
12 search and practices to inform, revise, and pro-
13 vide guidance to Native American Head Start
14 agencies to support—

15 “(i) classroom instructional practices,
16 including incorporating the use of universal
17 design for learning;

18 “(ii) community engagement;

19 “(iii) program evaluation;

20 “(iv) preservation and revitalization of
21 Native American languages and cultures;
22 and

23 “(v) compliance by such an agency
24 with performance standards under sub-
25 section (a) if a corresponding Tribal gov-

ernment integrates funding for Head Start, including Early Head Start, programs under the authorities provided in the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.), and maintenance of annual funding under this subchapter as a result of that compliance.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (H) and (I), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) include the provision of appropriate services and accommodations, and auxiliary aids and other assistive technology, for children with disabilities;

“(G) include the provision of appropriate accommodations for children who are developing English proficiency;” and

(3) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) identifying the individualized needs of children with disabilities; and”.

1 (c) MONITORING.—Section 641A(c)(2) of the Head
 2 Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9836a(c)(2)) is amended, in para-
 3 graphs (A)(i)(II) and (C), by striking “limited English
 4 proficient children” and inserting “children who are devel-
 5 oping English proficiency”.

6 (d) REDUCTIONS AND REDISTRIBUTIONS.—Section
 7 641A(h) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9836a(h)) is
 8 amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (3)(B)(iv), by inserting “and
 10 full calendar year” after “full-working-day”; and

11 (2) in paragraph (6)(A)(i)—

12 (A) by striking the clause heading and in-
 13 serting the following:

14 “(i) NATIVE AMERICAN HEAD START
 15 PROGRAMS.—”; and

16 (B) by striking “Indian” each place it ap-
 17 pears and inserting “Native American”.

18 **SEC. 10. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS.**

19 (a) AUTHORITY.—Section 642(b) of the Head Start
 20 Act (42 U.S.C. 9837(b)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (4)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 23 “and” at the end;

24 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
 25 subparagraph (C); and

1 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
2 the following:

3 “(B) continuous programming to support
4 the health, mental health, and well-being of
5 adults and children; and”;

6 (2) in paragraph (6), in the matter preceding
7 subparagraph (A), by striking “At” and all that fol-
8 lows through “offer” and inserting “Annually offer”;

9 (3) in paragraph (11), by striking “limited
10 English proficient children” and inserting “children
11 who are developing English proficiency”;

12 (4) by redesignating paragraph (16) as para-
13 graph (17); and

14 (5) by inserting after paragraph (15) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(16) Establish effective procedures for identi-
17 fying children with disabilities who are eligible for
18 reasonable accommodations under section 504 of the
19 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), and in-
20 forming parents of such children about their rights
21 and the reasonable accommodations, necessary to
22 help promote the school readiness of such children,
23 that are available through its program.”.

1 (b) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—Section
2 642(e) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837(e)) is
3 amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “the program
5 under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42
6 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.),” before “programs under sub-
7 title B”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (5)—

9 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
10 (A), by striking “the Improving Head Start for
11 School Readiness Act of 2007” and inserting
12 “the Head Start for America’s Children Act”;
13 and

14 (B) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

15 (i) in subclause (IX), by striking
16 “and” at the end;

17 (ii) by redesignating subclause (X) as
18 subclause (XI); and

19 (iii) by inserting after subclause (IX)
20 the following:

21 “(X) services provided to children
22 with disabilities under section 619 and
23 part C of the Individuals with Disabil-
24 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419,
25 1431 et seq.); and”.

1 (c) QUALITY STANDARDS, CURRICULA, AND ASSESS-
2 MENT.—Section 642(f) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
3 9837(f)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (3)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
6 “and” at the end; and

7 (B) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(F) incorporate the principles of universal
9 design for learning;”;

10 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking “and” at the
11 end;

12 (3) in paragraph (10)—

13 (A) by striking “children who are limited
14 English proficient” and inserting “children who
15 are developing English proficiency”; and

16 (B) by striking the period at the end and
17 inserting “; and”; and

18 (4) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(11) develop procedures for identifying chil-
20 dren with disabilities who are eligible for reasonable
21 accommodations under section 504 of the Rehabili-
22 tation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), and informing
23 parents of such children about their rights and the
24 reasonable accommodations, necessary to help pro-

1 mote the school readiness of such children, that are
2 available through its program.”.

3 (d) EXTENDED OPERATION.—Section 642 of the
4 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837) is amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 “(j) EXTENDED OPERATION.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
8 vided in this subsection, by September 30, 2027,
9 each Head Start agency (including, for purposes of
10 this subsection, an Early Head Start agency) pro-
11 viding center-based services under this subchapter
12 shall provide the services on a full calendar year
13 schedule.

14 “(2) EXEMPTION.—The Secretary may exempt
15 such an agency from operating fewer hours than the
16 hours in a full calendar year schedule only if the
17 Secretary finds reasonable evidence that operation
18 on such a schedule—

19 “(A) would cause significant reductions in
20 enrollment in slots; and

21 “(B) does not meet the needs of eligible
22 children and families in the area served, and
23 the agency operates a program that meets those
24 needs, which may include a locally designed op-
25 tion to meet the developmental needs of chil-

1 dren as demonstrated through a regularly con-
2 ducted community needs assessment.

3 “(3) EXCEPTION.—Migrant and seasonal Head
4 Start agencies and Native American Head Start
5 agencies are exempt from paragraph (1).”.

6 **SEC. 11. HEAD START TRANSITION AND ALIGNMENT WITH**
7 **K-12 EDUCATION.**

8 Section 642A(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
9 9837a(a)) is amended—

10 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
11 inserting “(or a Bureau-funded school in the case of
12 children who will attend such school)” after “local
13 educational agency”;

14 (2) in paragraphs (3), (5), and (10), by insert-
15 ing “(or such Bureau-funded school)” after “local
16 educational agency”;

17 (3) in paragraphs (7) and (8), by striking “lim-
18 ited English proficient children” each place it ap-
19 pears and inserting “children who are developing
20 English proficiency”;

21 (4) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” at the
22 end;

23 (5) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at
24 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

1 “(15) coordinating activities and collaborating
 2 with a coordinator for a full-service community
 3 school (which term shall have, for purposes of this
 4 paragraph, the meaning given the term in section
 5 4622 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
 6 Act (20 U.S.C. 7272)) to facilitate the transition for
 7 children served by a Head Start agency (which may
 8 be an Early Head Start program) into a full-service
 9 community school, if such school is located within
 10 the agency’s service area.”.

11 **SEC. 12. HEAD START COLLABORATION.**

12 Section 642B of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
 13 9837b) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section
 16 640(a)(2)(B)(vi)” and inserting “section
 17 640(a)(2)(B)(v)”;

18 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “In-
 19 dian” and inserting “Native American”; and

20 (C) in paragraph (4)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking
 22 “limited English proficient children” and
 23 inserting “children who are developing
 24 English proficiency”;

- 1 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
 2 “, Tribal,” after “State”; and
 3 (iii) in subparagraph (D)—
 4 (I) by inserting “and Bureau-
 5 funded schools,” after “local edu-
 6 cational agencies,”; and
 7 (II) by striking “at both the
 8 State” and inserting “at State, Trib-
 9 al”; and
 10 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(C)(vi), by striking “In-
 11 dian” and inserting “Native American”.

12 **SEC. 13. SUBMISSION OF PLANS TO GOVERNORS.**

13 Section 643 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9838)
 14 is amended, in the last sentence, by striking “Indian” and
 15 inserting “Native American”.

16 **SEC. 14. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND STAND-**
 17 **ARDS.**

18 Section 644 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9839)
 19 is amended—

- 20 (1) in subsection (f)—
 21 (A) in paragraph (2)(C), by inserting after
 22 “facility” the following: “, and a certification
 23 that the facility is in compliance with title III
 24 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
 25 (42 U.S.C. 12181 et seq.)”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (3)—

2 (i) by inserting “, Native Hawaiian
3 organizations, or Native Hawaiian edu-
4 cational organizations” after “tribes” each
5 place it appears; and

6 (ii) by inserting “Native American”
7 before “Head Start”;

8 (2) in subsection (g)(1), in the first sentence by
9 striking “tribes,” and inserting “tribes, Native Ha-
10 waiian Head Start agencies and communities,”; and

11 (3) in subsection (h)—

12 (A) by striking “American Indian” and in-
13 serting “Native American”; and

14 (B) by striking “members of an Indian
15 tribe” and inserting “Native Americans”.

16 **SEC. 15. PARTICIPATION IN HEAD START PROGRAM.**

17 (a) DESIGNATION CORRECTION.—Section 645 of the
18 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840) is amended by striking
19 “(a)” the first place it appears and all that follows
20 through “The Secretary” the first place it appears and
21 inserting “(a)(1)(A) The Secretary”.

22 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection (a), as so designated,
23 of section 645 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840)
24 is amended, in paragraph (1)(B)—

1 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by strik-
2 ing “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (2)
3 and subsections (d)(1) and (e)”;

4 (2) in clause (i), by striking “if” the first place
5 it appears and all that follows and inserting “if—

6 “(I) their families’ incomes are below 60
7 percent of the State median income for a family
8 of the same size;

9 “(II) their families are eligible or, in the
10 absence of child care, would potentially be eligi-
11 ble for public assistance; or

12 “(III) the children previously participated
13 in a full year of a Head Start (which may be
14 an Early Head Start) program;”;

15 (3) in clause (ii)—

16 (A) by striking “homeless”;

17 (B) by striking “participation;” and insert-
18 ing “participation if the children are—”; and

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

20 “(I) homeless children;

21 “(II) children in foster care, in kinship
22 care, or who experienced child abuse or neglect
23 as defined under section 3 of the Child Abuse
24 and Prevention and Treatment Act of 2010 (42
25 U.S.C. 5101 note);

1 “(III) children who are eligible for (wheth-
2 er or not they are receiving)—

3 “(aa) benefits under title XVI of the
4 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et
5 seq.);

6 “(bb) assistance under part A of title
7 IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
8 601 et seq.);

9 “(cc) supplemental nutrition assist-
10 ance program benefits under the Food and
11 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
12 seq.);

13 “(dd) assistance under a nutrition as-
14 sistance program under section 19 of the
15 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
16 2028) or a commodity distribution pro-
17 gram for Indians under section 4(a) of the
18 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act
19 of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note);

20 “(ee) assistance under section 17 of
21 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
22 U.S.C. 1786); or

23 “(ff) assistance under section 8 of the
24 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42
25 U.S.C. 1437f);

1 “(IV) children with disabilities;

2 “(V) children of current (as of the date of
3 the determination of eligibility) staff of a Head
4 Start agency (which may be an Early Head
5 Start agency); and

6 “(VI) children who are part of another vul-
7 nerable group that would benefit from Head
8 Start services (which may be Early Head Start
9 services), as such group is approved by the Sec-
10 retary;”;

11 (4) in clause (iii)—

12 (A) in subclause (II), by striking “from”
13 and all that follows through “if—”;

14 (B) by striking “may include—” and all
15 that follows through “to a reasonable” and in-
16 serting “may include, to a reasonable”;

17 (C) by striking “(ii); and” and inserting
18 “(ii), if—”;

19 (D) by redesignating items (aa) and (bb)
20 as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and
21 aligning the margins of the subclauses with the
22 margins of subclause (I) of clause (iv);

23 (E) in subclause (I), as so designated, by
24 striking “(or subclause (I) if the child involved
25 has a disability)”; and

1 (F) in subclauses (I) and (II), as so des-
 2 ignated, by striking “this subclause” and in-
 3 serting “this clause”;

4 (5) in clause (iv)—

5 (A) by striking “clause (iii)(II)” each place
 6 it appears and inserting “clause (iii)”;

7 (B) in subclause (II), by striking “(or
 8 clause (iii)(I) if the child involved has a dis-
 9 ability)”; and

10 (C) in subclause (VI), by striking “clause
 11 (iii)(I),”; and

12 (6) in clause (v)—

13 (A) by inserting “(which may be an Early
 14 Head Start program)” after “a Head Start pro-
 15 gram”; and

16 (B) by striking “through” and all that fol-
 17 lows and inserting “until kindergarten entry.”.

18 (c) NATIVE AMERICAN SELECTION CRITERIA.—Sec-
 19 tion 645(d) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840(d))
 20 is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “An Indian
 22 tribe” and all that follows and inserting the fol-
 23 lowing: “An Indian tribe, Native Hawaiian organiza-
 24 tion, or Native Hawaiian educational organization
 25 that operates a Head Start program (which may be

1 an Early Head Start program) may, at its discre-
2 tion, establish selection criteria, including criteria to
3 prioritize children in families in which a child or a
4 family member is a member of an Indian tribe or is
5 a Native Hawaiian, or in households in which a
6 household member is a member of an Indian tribe
7 or is a Native Hawaiian, to enroll Native American
8 children who would most benefit from such program,
9 but who are not eligible under clause (i) or (ii) of
10 subsection (a)(1)(B).”;

11 (2) in paragraph (2)—

12 (A) by inserting “, Native Hawaiian orga-
13 nization, or Native Hawaiian educational orga-
14 nization” after “Indian tribe”; and

15 (B) by inserting “, Native Hawaiian orga-
16 nizations, and Native Hawaiian educational or-
17 ganizations” after “Indian tribes”; and

18 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “or tribes”
19 each place it appears and inserting “, Native Hawai-
20 ian organization, or Native Hawaiian educational or-
21 ganization”.

22 (d) MIGRANT OR SEASONAL SELECTION CRITERIA.—
23 Section 645 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840) is
24 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(e) Subject to section 640(l) and the description of
 2 families in the definition of ‘migrant or seasonal Head
 3 Start program’ in section 637, an agency that operates
 4 a migrant or seasonal Head Start program (which may
 5 be an Early Head Start program) may, at its discretion,
 6 establish selection criteria to enroll children of migrant or
 7 seasonal farmworker families who would most benefit from
 8 such program but who are not eligible under clause (i)
 9 or (ii) of subsection (a)(1)(B), giving priority to children
 10 of migrant farmworker families described in subparagraph
 11 (A) of the paragraph establishing that definition in section
 12 637. The selection criteria shall limit that enrollment to
 13 children who have at least 1 family member whose income
 14 comes primarily from agricultural employment as defined
 15 in section 3 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural
 16 Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1802).”.

17 **SEC. 16. EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS.**

18 (a) **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT.**—Section 645A(b)(1)
 19 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840a(b)(1)) is amend-
 20 ed by striking “intellectual” and inserting “cognitive”.

21 (b) **ELIGIBLE SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—Section
 22 645A(d) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840a(d)) is
 23 amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “Indian” and
 25 inserting “Native American”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (3), by inserting “partnerships
2 and” after “including”.

3 (c) SELECTION.—Section 645A(e) of the Head Start
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 9840a(e)) is amended by striking “under
5 this section” and all that follows and inserting “under this
6 section—

7 “(1) on a competitive basis to applicants meet-
8 ing the criteria specified in subsection (d); and

9 “(2) giving priority to—

10 “(A) entities that have a record of pro-
11 viding early, continuous, and comprehensive
12 childhood development and family services; or

13 “(B) entities that are operating a Head
14 Start program.”.

15 (d) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Sec-
16 tion 645A(g)(2)(B)(i) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
17 9840a(g)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “section
18 640(a)(2)(C)(i)(II)(bb)” and inserting “section
19 640(a)(2)(C)(i)(III)(bb)”.

20 (e) CENTER-BASED STAFF.—Section 645A(h) of the
21 Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840a(h)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “, not later
23 than September 30, 2010,”; and

24 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “not later
25 than September 30, 2010,”.

1 (f) STAFF QUALIFICATIONS.—Section 645A(i)(2) of
2 the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840a(i)(2)) is amended—

3 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “children
4 who are limited English proficient” and inserting
5 “children who are developing English proficiency”;

6 (2) in subparagraph (E)—

7 (A) by inserting “, mental health,” after
8 “what health”;

9 (B) by striking “by offering” and inserting
10 “by—

11 “(i) offering”;

12 (C) in clause (i), as so designated, by add-
13 ing “and” at the end; and

14 (D) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(ii) ensuring that all children receiv-
16 ing such a home visit receive adequate
17 screening and appropriate follow-up for,
18 and families receive referrals to access
19 services for, potential social, emotional, be-
20 havioral, or other mental health con-
21 cerns;”; and

22 (3) in subparagraph (G), by inserting “, mental
23 health,” after “health”.

1 **SEC. 17. APPEALS, NOTICE, AND HEARING.**

2 Section 646(e)(1) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
3 9841(e)(1)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “Indian tribe” each place it ap-
5 pears and inserting “Indian tribe, Native Hawaiian
6 organization, or Native Hawaiian educational orga-
7 nization”;

8 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the
9 tribe” the first place it appears and inserting “the
10 Indian tribe, Native Hawaiian organization, or Na-
11 tive Hawaiian educational organization”; and

12 (3) except as described in paragraph (2) of this
13 section, by striking “the tribe” each place it appears
14 and inserting “the Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian
15 community involved”.

16 **SEC. 18. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**

17 Section 648 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9843)
18 is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

21 (i) in clause (iii), by striking “staff
22 (including instruction” and inserting the
23 following: “staff, including—
24 “(I) instruction”; and

1 (ii) by striking “families, including
2 training” and inserting the following:
3 “families; and

4 “(II) training”; and
5 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (i) in clause (x)(II)—

7 (I) by striking “limited English
8 proficient children” and inserting
9 “children who are developing English
10 proficiency”; and

11 (II) by striking “limited English
12 proficient individuals” and inserting
13 “individuals who are developing
14 English proficiency”;

15 (ii) by redesignating clauses (xii)
16 through (xvi) as clauses (xiv) through
17 (xviii), respectively;

18 (iii) by inserting after clause (xi) the
19 following:

20 “(xii) assist Head Start agencies and
21 programs to—

22 “(I) increase the utilization of
23 evidence-based systemic approaches to
24 positive behavioral interventions and
25 supports in Head Start programs;

1 “(II) prevent seclusion, mechan-
 2 ical restraint, and chemical restraint,
 3 and prevent and reduce physical re-
 4 straint, in Head Start programs; and

5 “(III) collect data needed to
 6 carry out the evaluation under section
 7 650(n);

8 “(xiii) assist Head Start agencies in
 9 the development of policies and procedures
 10 to promote the coordination and timely
 11 and appropriate delivery of services, and
 12 payment or reimbursement of such serv-
 13 ices, under title XIX of the Social Security
 14 Act (42 U.S.C. 1396);” and

15 (iv) in clause (xvii), as so redesign-
 16 nated—

17 (I) by striking “assist Indian”
 18 and inserting “assist Native Amer-
 19 ican”; and

20 (II) by inserting “, Alaska Na-
 21 tive, and Native Hawaiian” after “of
 22 Indian”;

23 (2) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
 25 by striking “section 640(a)(2)(C)(i)(II)(cc)”

1 and inserting “section 640(a)(2)(C)(i)(III)(cc)”;
2 and

3 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “lim-
4 ited English proficient children” and inserting
5 “children who are developing English pro-
6 ficiency”;

7 (3) in subsection (d)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
9 by striking “section 640(a)(2)(C)(i)(II)(aa)”
10 and inserting “section
11 640(a)(2)(C)(i)(III)(aa)”;

12 (B) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
14 “children and families who are limited
15 English proficient” and inserting “children
16 and family members who are developing
17 English proficiency”;

18 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph (I)
19 as subparagraph (K); and

20 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
21 (H) the following:

22 “(I) Activities to provide training nec-
23 essary to implement evidence-based systemic
24 approaches to positive behavioral interventions
25 and supports, including technical assistance for

1 data-driven decision-making related to behav-
 2 ioral supports and interventions.

3 “(J) Activities to improve the implementa-
 4 tion and evaluation of strategies and procedures
 5 to prevent seclusion, mechanical restraint, and
 6 chemical restraint, and prevent and reduce
 7 physical restraint, in Head Start programs.”;
 8 and

9 (C) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
 11 “and, as appropriate, Native American lan-
 12 guages” before the semicolon at the end;
 13 and

14 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
 15 “children who are limited English pro-
 16 ficient” and inserting “children who are
 17 developing English proficiency”;

18 (4) in subsection (e)—

19 (A) by striking “Indian” each place the
 20 term appears and inserting “Native American”;

21 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
 22 by striking “section 640(a)(2)(C)(i)(II)(bb)”
 23 and inserting “section
 24 640(a)(2)(C)(i)(III)(bb)”;

1 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “section
2 640(a)(2)(C)(i)(II)(bb)” and inserting “section
3 640(a)(2)(C)(i)(III)(bb)”;

4 (D) in paragraph (4), by striking “and
5 Labor” and inserting “and Workforce”;

6 (5) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
7 section (h);

8 (6) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(g) DISABILITY-RELATED SERVICES.—The Sec-
11 retary shall—

12 “(1) coordinate with the Secretary of Education
13 and other experts, as appropriate, on the services
14 and supports provided to infants, toddlers, and chil-
15 dren with disabilities under section 619 and part C
16 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
17 (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.) and section 504 of
18 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); and

19 “(2) provide training and technical assistance
20 to Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start
21 agencies) to improve its coordination and collabora-
22 tion as required under subparagraphs (H)(ii) and
23 (N) of section 641(d)(2) and sections 642(e)(3),
24 642B(a)(2)(B)(iv), and 645A(b)(11).”; and

25 (7) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
3 graph (A), by striking “Hispanic-serving
4 institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Uni-
5 versities” and inserting “, Tribal Colleges
6 and Universities, and other minority-serv-
7 ing institutions, including Hispanic-serving
8 institutions”;

9 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
10 “and costs related to tuition, fees, and
11 books” and inserting “, the cost of attend-
12 ance of the education programs, and other
13 costs associated with in-service learning”;

14 (iii) in subparagraph (C)—

15 (I) in clause (ii), by striking
16 “children with limited English pro-
17 ficiency” and inserting “children who
18 are developing English proficiency”;

19 (II) in clause (iii)—

20 (aa) by inserting “, Alaska
21 Native, and Native Hawaiian”
22 after “Indian”; and

23 (bb) by striking “tribal cul-
24 ture and language” and inserting

1 “Tribal culture and Native Amer-
2 ican languages”; and

3 (III) by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 “(iv) in the case of other minority-
6 serving institutions, to help Head Start
7 agency staff develop skills and expertise
8 needed to teach in programs serving large
9 numbers of Indian, Alaska Native, Native
10 Hawaiian, and Asian American and Pacific
11 Islander children, including programs to
12 develop the linguistic skills and expertise
13 needed to teach in programs serving a
14 large number of children who are devel-
15 oping English proficiency;”;

16 (iv) in subparagraph (D), by striking
17 “Hispanic-serving institutions, or Tribal
18 Colleges and Universities” and inserting “,
19 Tribal Colleges and Universities, or other
20 minority-serving institutions, including
21 Hispanic-serving institutions”;

22 (v) by redesignating subparagraphs
23 (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and
24 (G), respectively;

1 (vi) by inserting after subparagraph
2 (D) the following:

3 “(E) to provide supportive services, such
4 as transportation, child care, dependent care,
5 assistive technology, and food assistance, that
6 are necessary to enable an individual to partici-
7 pate in activities authorized under this sub-
8 section;”;

9 (vii) in subparagraph (F), as so redes-
10 ignated—

11 (I) by striking “technology lit-
12 eracy programs for Indian” and in-
13 serting “digital literacy programs for
14 Native American”; and

15 (II) by striking “and” after semi-
16 colon;

17 (viii) in subparagraph (G), as so re-
18 designated, by striking the period and in-
19 serting “; and”; and

20 (ix) by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(H) to provide opportunities for partici-
23 pants to practice and develop teaching that in-
24 tegrate knowledge from education through
25 classroom-based, paid clinical experiences in

1 which candidates may teach or lead alongside
2 an expert mentor teacher.”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
5 “and” after the semicolon;

6 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
7 “under this section.” and inserting “and
8 other minority-serving institutions, includ-
9 ing Native American-serving nontribal in-
10 stitutions, Alaska Native-serving institu-
11 tions, and Native Hawaiian-serving institu-
12 tions under this section;”; and

13 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(C) provide appropriate technical assist-
16 ance to communities interested in establishing
17 campus-based Head Start services at institu-
18 tions of higher education, including analysis of
19 the economic circumstances of the college edu-
20 cation population in the community and poten-
21 tial partnership models that may be appropriate
22 for the community; and

23 “(D) provide technical assistance to insti-
24 tutions receiving grants under this subsection

on the ability to leverage existing Federal and State funds, such as—

“(i) State prekindergarten funding;

“(ii) dedicated State funding for infant and toddler care; and

“(iii) the Child Care Access Means Parents in School program under section 419N of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070e).”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “Hispanic-serving institution, or Tribal College or University desiring” and inserting “Tribal College or University, or other minority-serving institution, including a Hispanic-serving institution, desiring”; and

(ii) by striking “Hispanic-serving institutions, or Tribal Colleges and Universities” and inserting “Tribal Colleges and Universities, or other minority-serving institutions, including Hispanic-serving institutions”;

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively;

1 (E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
2 following:

3 “(4) AWARD BASIS.—In making awards under
4 this subsection, the Secretary—

5 “(A) shall consult with the Secretary of
6 Education; and

7 “(B) to the extent practicable based on the
8 applications received, shall distribute the grant
9 funds available under this subsection propor-
10 tionately among institutions designated as his-
11 torically Black colleges and universities, as
12 Tribal Colleges and Universities, and as other
13 minority-serving institutions, based on the num-
14 ber of institutions designated in each such cat-
15 egory in all States, as compared to the total
16 number of designated institutions in all such
17 categories in all States.”;

18 (F) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated—

19 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
20 (A), (B), and (C) as subparagraphs (C),
21 (D), and (H), respectively;

22 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph
23 (C), as so redesignated, the following:

24 “(A) The term ‘Alaska Native-serving in-
25 stitution’ has the meaning given such term in

1 section 317(b) of the Higher Education Act of
2 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)).

3 “(B) The term ‘cost of attendance’ has the
4 meaning given the term in section 472 of the
5 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 108711).”; and

7 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
8 (D), as so redesignated, the following:

9 “(E) The term ‘minority-serving institu-
10 tion’ means an institution described in any of
11 paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 371(a) of
12 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
13 1067q(a)).

14 “(F) The term ‘Native American-serving
15 nontribal institution’ has the meaning given
16 such term in section 371(c) of the Higher Edu-
17 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c)).

18 “(G) The term ‘Native Hawaiian-serving
19 institution’ has the meaning given such term in
20 section 317(b) of the Higher Education Act of
21 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)).”; and

22 (G) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated,
23 by striking “or shall repay such assistance” and
24 inserting “, but shall not be required to repay

1 such assistance if the teaching requirement is
2 not met”.

3 **SEC. 19. STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT.**

4 Section 648A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
5 9843a) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

9 (I) by striking “development of
10 children” and inserting “development
11 of all children by applying the prin-
12 ciples of universal design for learn-
13 ing”; and

14 (II) by striking “readiness of
15 children” and inserting “readiness of
16 children, including infants and tod-
17 dlers, as applicable,”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
19 “children; and” and inserting “children,
20 including, as applicable, infants and tod-
21 dlers;”;

22 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
23 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

24 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
25 (C) the following:

1 “(D) providing linguistically and culturally
2 appropriate instruction; and”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (I) in the matter preceding clause

6 (i), by striking “all”; and

7 (II) in clause (i)—

8 (aa) in the matter preceding

9 subclause (I), by inserting “all”

10 before “Head Start education co-

11 ordinators”; and

12 (bb) in subclause (I), by in-

13 serting “, including linguistically

14 and culturally appropriate in-

15 struction and curricula” before

16 the semicolon; and

17 (ii) in subparagraph (C)(i)(II), by

18 striking “and Labor” and inserting “and

19 Workforce”;

20 (C) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, in-

21 cluding linguistically and culturally appropriate

22 instruction,” after “classroom instruction”;

23 (D) in paragraph (6), by striking “shall—

24 ” and all that follows through “degree.” and in-

25 serting the following: “shall teach or work in a

1 Head Start program for a minimum of 3 years
2 after receiving the degree, but shall not be re-
3 quired to repay such assistance if the teaching
4 requirement is not met.”; and

5 (E) in paragraph (7)—

6 (i) by striking “or 102”; and

7 (ii) by striking “, 1002”;

8 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “to sup-
9 port linguistically and culturally appropriate instruc-
10 tion,” after “education services,”;

11 (3) in subsection (c)(5), by striking “(including
12 populations of limited English proficient children)”
13 and inserting “, including populations of children
14 who are developing English proficiency and children
15 with disabilities”; and

16 (4) in subsection (g), by striking “tribal” each
17 place the term appears and inserting “Tribal”.

18 **SEC. 20. MENTAL HEALTH.**

19 The Head Start Act is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating sections 649 and 650 (42
21 U.S.C. 9844 and 9846) as sections 650 and 651, re-
22 spectively; and

23 (2) by inserting after section 648A the fol-
24 lowing:

1 **“SEC. 649. MENTAL HEALTH.**

2 “(a) REFERENCES.—In this section, a reference to
3 a Head Start program includes an Early Head Start pro-
4 gram and a reference to a Head Start agency includes an
5 Early Head Start agency.

6 “(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination
7 with the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Sub-
8 stance Use, shall ensure each Head Start agency supports
9 the mental health and well-being of the staff of, and par-
10 ents and children served by, the Head Start program of
11 the agency.

12 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In order to carry out sub-
13 section (b), each Head Start agency shall—

14 “(1) support adult mental health and well-
15 being, including engaging families in responsive rela-
16 tionships, in home visiting services, and promoting
17 staff health and wellness;

18 “(2) encourage positive learning environments
19 for all children, particularly children with disabil-
20 ities, children who are developing English pro-
21 ficiency, and infants and toddlers;

22 “(3) provide adequate mental health screening
23 for all children participating in such programs and
24 mental health consultation services, including—

25 “(A) appropriate follow-up and referrals;
26 and

1 “(B) information for parents to access
2 services to address potential mental health con-
3 cerns;

4 “(4) facilitate access to a mental health consult-
5 ant that is trained on evidence-based strategies to
6 prevent, identify, and support children with mental
7 health and social and emotional concerns;

8 “(5) ensure all lead teachers receive training on
9 infant and early childhood mental health;

10 “(6) promote multitiered systems of support,
11 such as positive behavioral interventions and sup-
12 ports and trauma-informed care; and

13 “(7) support staff wellness breaks that—

14 “(A) considers the number of hours in a
15 shift and the availability of qualified teaching
16 staff;

17 “(B) ensures the safety of children; and

18 “(C) as applicable, complies with State
19 laws or regulations that are more restrictive.

20 “(d) COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.—A Head Start
21 agency may establish a partnership with community-based
22 services and resource personnel, such as behavior coaches,
23 psychologists, and other appropriate specialists, to facili-
24 tate access to additional mental health resources and serv-
25 ices as needed under this section.

1 “(e) APPLICABILITY; EXCEPTION.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
3 graph (2), the requirements of this section shall
4 apply to all Head Start agencies, and all Head Start
5 programs, receiving assistance under this sub-
6 chapter.

7 “(2) EXCEPTION.—

8 “(A) NATIVE AMERICAN HEAD START
9 AGENCIES.—Except as provided in subpara-
10 graph (B), this section shall not apply to Head
11 Start programs operated by Native American
12 Head Start agencies.

13 “(B) SUPPORTING CULTURALLY RESPON-
14 SIVE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.—A
15 Native American Head Start agency receiving
16 assistance under this subchapter shall, working
17 with members of Indian, Alaska Native, and
18 Native Hawaiian communities (as applicable),
19 establish practices that—

20 “(i) support the mental health and
21 well-being of Head Start staff and children
22 served by the Native American Head Start
23 program; and

24 “(ii) are linguistically and culturally
25 responsive and appropriate.”.

1 **SEC. 21. RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND EVALUATION.**

2 Section 650 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9844),
3 as so redesignated, is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting “in con-
5 sultation with the advisory panel established under
6 subsection (g)(1)” before the period at the end;

7 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “public or
8 private entities” and inserting “other offices of the
9 Department of Health and Human Services, such as
10 the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning
11 and Evaluation, or public or private entities, such as
12 the Institute of Education Sciences”;

13 (3) in subsection (c)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) by redesignating subparagraph (C)
16 as subparagraph (D);

17 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

18 (I) by striking “and” after the
19 semicolon; and

20 (II) by striking “programs and
21 individuals” and inserting the fol-
22 lowing: “programs;

23 “(C) individuals”;

24 (iii) in subparagraph (D), as so redesi-
25 gnated—

1 (I) by striking the semicolon at
2 the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (II) by striking “other Federal
4 agencies, and individuals” and insert-
5 ing the following: “other offices of the
6 Department of Health and Human
7 Services, such as the Office of the As-
8 sistant Secretary for Planning and
9 Evaluation, and other Federal agen-
10 cies, such as the Institute of Edu-
11 cation Sciences;

12 “(E) individuals”; and

13 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(F) Indian Tribes and representatives
16 from Native American Head Start agencies;”;
17 and

18 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “and
19 particularly minority-serving institutions, as de-
20 fined in section 648(h)(5)” after “Higher Edu-
21 cation Act of 1965”;

22 (4) in subsection (d)—

23 (A) in paragraph (6), by inserting “, in-
24 cluding models to simulate a control group” be-
25 fore the semicolon at the end;

1 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking “and”
2 after the semicolon;

3 (C) in paragraph (10)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
5 “which include” and all that follows
6 through the semicolon and inserting “on
7 both children with disabilities and children
8 without disabilities;”; and

9 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
10 the period at the end and inserting a semi-
11 colon; and

12 (D) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(11) examine outreach, enrollment, and reten-
14 tion of eligible families in Head Start programs, in-
15 cluding between Early Head Start and Head Start
16 programs;

17 “(12) examine the processes through which
18 Head Start programs respond to the needs of fami-
19 lies and provide family support services; and

20 “(13) assess the drivers of workforce retention
21 and turnover in early care and education, as it re-
22 lates to teacher preparation, wages, benefits, and
23 mental health supports.”;

24 (5) in subsection (g)—

25 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

1 (i) in clause (i), by striking “of the
2 Coats Human Services Reauthorization
3 Act of 1998” and inserting “of the Head
4 Start for America’s Children Act”; and

5 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking “to com-
6 ment, if the panel so desires, on” and in-
7 serting “to make recommendations for fu-
8 ture research based on”;

9 (B) in paragraph (5)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (A)(iii)(II), by
11 striking “enriches the lives of children and
12 families participating in Head Start pro-
13 grams” and inserting “improves child and
14 family health, well-being, and engagement
15 of children in the Head Start programs
16 and subsequent educational program-
17 ming”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

19 (I) by striking “on the date the
20 participants leave Head Start pro-
21 grams, at the end of kindergarten and
22 at the end of first grade (whether in
23 public or private school),”; and

1 (II) by striking “absenteeism;”
2 and inserting the following: “absentee-
3 ism—

4 “(i) on the date the participants leave
5 the Head Start program;

6 “(ii) at the end of kindergarten;

7 “(iii) at the end of first grade; and

8 “(iv) during later academic years,
9 which shall examine long-term academic
10 performance, as appropriate;”;

11 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
12 (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and
13 (E), respectively;

14 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
15 (B) the following:

16 “(C) as applicable, examines the impact of
17 continued participation for children enrolled in
18 both Early Head Start and Head Start pro-
19 grams;”;

20 (v) in subparagraph (E), as so redes-
21 ignated—

22 (I) in the matter preceding clause

23 (i), by inserting “and models to simu-
24 late control groups” after “compari-
25 son groups”; and

1 (II) in clause (i), by striking
2 “day care” and inserting “child care”;

3 (C) in paragraph (6)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (F)—

5 (I) by inserting “with respect to
6 Head Start programs” before “the
7 number”;

8 (II) by striking “program (such
9 as whether” and inserting the fol-
10 lowing: “program, such as—
11 “(i) whether”;

12 (III) by striking “a full-working-
13 day, full calendar year program,” and
14 inserting “a full-working-day pro-
15 gram, a full calendar year program,”;

16 (IV) by striking “); and” and in-
17 serting “; and”; and

18 (V) by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(ii) increased operational service
21 hours; and”; and

22 (ii) in subparagraph (G), by inserting
23 “, and disaggregated by race, ethnicity,
24 sex, disability status, age, and status as a

1 child developing English proficiency” after
2 “characteristics”; and

3 (D) in paragraph (7)(C)—

4 (i) by striking “September 30, 2009”
5 and inserting “September 30, 2027”; and

6 (ii) by striking “and Labor” and in-
7 serting “and Workforce”;

8 (6) in subsection (h)—

9 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
10 “LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT CHILDREN”
11 and inserting “CHILDREN WHO ARE DEVEL-
12 OPING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY”;

13 (B) in paragraph (1)—

14 (i) by striking “Improving Head Start
15 for School Readiness Act of 2007” and in-
16 serting “Head Start for America’s Chil-
17 dren Act”; and

18 (ii) by striking “limited English pro-
19 ficient children” and inserting “children
20 who are developing English proficiency”;
21 and

22 (C) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
24 graph (A)—

1 (I) by striking “September 30,
2 2010” and inserting September 30,
3 2028; and

4 (II) by striking “and Labor” and
5 inserting “and Workforce”;

6 (ii) in each of subparagraphs (A) and
7 (B), by striking “limited English proficient
8 children” and inserting “children who are
9 developing English proficiency”;

10 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
11 “limited English proficient children” each
12 place the term appears and inserting “chil-
13 dren who are developing English pro-
14 ficiency”;

15 (iv) in subparagraph (D), by striking
16 “limited English proficient children” and
17 inserting “children who are developing
18 English proficiency”;

19 (v) in subparagraph (F), by striking
20 “limited English proficient children” each
21 place the term appears and inserting “chil-
22 dren who are developing English pro-
23 ficiency”; and

24 (vi) in subparagraph (G), by striking
25 “limited English proficient children” and

1 inserting “children who are developing
2 English proficiency”;

3 (7) in subsection (i), by striking “limited
4 English proficient children” and inserting “children
5 who are developing English proficiency”;

6 (8) in subsection (j), by striking “limited
7 English proficient” each place the term appears and
8 inserting “developing English proficiency”;

9 (9) in subsection (k)—

10 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
11 “INDIAN” and inserting “NATIVE AMERICAN”;

12 (B) by striking “Indian Head Start pro-
13 grams” each place the term appears and insert-
14 ing “Native American Head Start programs”;

15 (C) by striking “American Indian and
16 Alaska Native” each place the term appears
17 and inserting “Indian, Alaska Native, and Na-
18 tive Hawaiian”;

19 (D) in paragraph (1)—

20 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
21 graph (A), by striking “Indian Head Start
22 collaboration director,” and inserting “Na-
23 tive American Head Start collaboration di-
24 rector, the Native American Head Start

1 Advisory Committee established under
2 paragraph (3),”;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

4 (I) by striking “focus on issues”
5 and inserting the following: “focus—
6 “(i) on issues”;

7 (II) by inserting “linguistically
8 and culturally” before “appropriate”;

9 (III) by striking “Children;” and
10 inserting “children; and”; and

11 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(ii) the implementation and effects of
14 Native American Head Start programs,
15 which shall include consultation with In-
16 dian Tribes, representatives of Native
17 American Head Start agencies, and mem-
18 bers of Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian
19 communities;”; and

20 (iii) in subparagraph (E)—

21 (I) in clause (i), by striking
22 “American Indians and Alaska Na-
23 tives” and inserting “Indians, Alaska
24 Natives, and Native Hawaiians”; and

1 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
2 “tribal” and inserting “Tribal”;

3 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
4 through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), re-
5 spectively;

6 (F) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
7 following:

8 “(3)(A) establish an independent panel (to be
9 known as the ‘Native American Head Start Advisory
10 Committee’), which—

11 “(i) shall consist of representatives ap-
12 pointed by the Secretary from Native American
13 Head Start programs, families served by Native
14 American Head Start programs, and other ap-
15 propriate entities, including Tribal govern-
16 ments, to review, and make recommendations
17 on, the design and plan for the research carried
18 out under paragraph (1); and

19 “(ii) shall not be subject to section 1013 of
20 title 5, United States Code; and

21 “(B) in carrying out paragraph (1), consult
22 with the Native American Head Start Advisory
23 Committee and consider the Committee’s rec-
24 ommendations;”;

1 (G) in each of paragraphs (4) and (5), as
2 so redesignated, by striking “effective date of
3 this subsection” and inserting “date of enact-
4 ment of the Head Start for America’s Children
5 Act”; and

6 (H) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated,
7 by striking “and Labor” and inserting “and
8 Workforce”;

9 (10) in subsection (l)—

10 (A) by striking “Improving Head Start for
11 School Readiness Act of 2007” each place the
12 term appears and inserting “Head Start for
13 America’s Children Act”;

14 (B) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
16 graph (A), by inserting “the Migrant and
17 Seasonal Head Start Advisory Committee
18 established under paragraph (4),” after
19 “Head Start programs,”;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
21 “and” after the semicolon;

22 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
23 the period and inserting “; and”; and

24 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(C) undertake a study or set of studies
 2 designed to focus on the population eligible for
 3 migrant and seasonal Head Start programs,
 4 with a focus on issues such as availability and
 5 need for services, culturally appropriate re-
 6 search methodologies and measures for these
 7 populations, and best practices for teaching and
 8 educating children from farmworker families.”;

9 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Edu-
 10 cation and Labor” and inserting “Education
 11 and Workforce”;

12 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and
 13 (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

14 (E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
 15 following:

16 “(4) MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START AD-
 17 VISORY COMMITTEE.—

18 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
 19 shall establish an independent panel (to be
 20 known as the ‘Migrant and Seasonal Head
 21 Start Advisory Committee’)—

22 “(i) to review, and make recommenda-
 23 tions on, the design and plan for the re-
 24 search conducted under paragraph (1);

1 “(ii) to maintain and advise the Sec-
2 retary regarding the progress of the re-
3 search; and

4 “(iii) to make recommendations for
5 future research.

6 “(B) MEMBERSHIP.—The Migrant and
7 Seasonal Head Start Advisory Committee shall
8 consist of members appointed by the Secretary
9 from—

10 “(i) Migrant and Seasonal Head Start
11 programs;

12 “(ii) families served by Migrant and
13 Seasonal Head Start programs; and

14 “(iii) other appropriate entities who
15 specialize in serving the children of mi-
16 grant and seasonal farmworkers.

17 “(C) NON-EXPIRATION.—Section 1013 of
18 title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to
19 the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Advisory
20 Committee.

21 “(5) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall, in
22 carrying out activities described in paragraph (1),
23 consult with the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start
24 Advisory Committee and consider the Committee’s
25 recommendations.”;

1 (11) in subsection (m)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “in the
3 event” and all that follows through the period
4 at the end and inserting “in the event of a
5 large-scale emergency or other major disaster or
6 emergency declared under section 401 or 501,
7 respectively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
8 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
9 U.S.C. 5170, 5191).”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (3)—

11 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
12 graph (A)—

13 (I) by striking “Improving Head
14 Start for School Readiness Act of
15 2007” and inserting “Head Start for
16 America’s Children Act”; and

17 (II) by striking “and Labor” and
18 inserting “and Workforce”; and

19 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
20 “, including those that were developed in
21 response to hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and
22 Wilma”; and

23 (12) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(n) DISCIPLINE.—

1 “(1) REFERENCES.—In this subsection, a ref-
2 erence to a Head Start program includes an Early
3 Head Start program and a reference to a Head
4 Start agency includes an Early Head Start agency.

5 “(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
6 is to evaluate discipline practices of the Head Start
7 programs and make recommendations for how Head
8 Start programs shall reduce the overuse of discipline
9 practices and improve the use of evidence-based
10 strategies to support children.

11 “(3) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall evalu-
12 ate Head Start programs in the use of discipline
13 practices, including—

14 “(A) rates of suspensions of children;

15 “(B) rates of dismissal or replacement to
16 another program;

17 “(C) rates of corporal punishment or phys-
18 ically abusive behavior, including physical re-
19 straint;

20 “(D) with respect to physical restraint im-
21 posed upon children—

22 “(i) the total number of such inci-
23 dents;

1 “(ii) the total number of children
2 upon whom such physical restraint was im-
3 posed;

4 “(iii) in a case in which such physical
5 restraint was imposed more than twice on
6 a child, the number of times such child
7 was so restrained; and

8 “(iv) the total number of such inci-
9 dents where the use of physical restraint is
10 referred to law enforcement; and

11 “(E) rates of emotionally harmful or abu-
12 sive behavior, including seclusion.

13 “(4) DISAGGREGATION.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The data collected
15 and evaluated under paragraph (3) shall be
16 disaggregated by—

17 “(i) each major racial and ethnic
18 group;

19 “(ii) sex;

20 “(iii) status as an economically dis-
21 advantaged child;

22 “(iv) status as a children with a dis-
23 ability or as a child without a disability;
24 and

1 “(v) status as a child developing
2 English proficiency.

3 “(B) PHYSICAL RESTRAINT DATA.—With
4 respect to the data collected under paragraph
5 (3)(D) regarding the total number of incidents
6 in which physical restraint was imposed upon a
7 child, such data shall be disaggregated by—

8 “(i) incidents that resulted in injury;

9 “(ii) incidents that resulted in death;

10 and

11 “(iii) incidents in which the program
12 staff imposing physical restraint was not
13 trained and certified by a State-approved
14 crisis intervention training program.

15 “(5) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18
17 months after the date of the enactment of the
18 Head Start for America’s Children Act and
19 each year thereafter, the Secretary shall pre-
20 pare and submit to the Committee on Edu-
21 cation and Workforce of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Committee on Health,
23 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate
24 a report containing the results of the evaluation
25 required under paragraph (3).

1 “(B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
2 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

3 “(i) an analysis of data related to the
4 incidents in Head Start programs de-
5 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (E)
6 of paragraph (3);

7 “(ii) an analysis of the effectiveness of
8 Federal, State, and local efforts to elimi-
9 nate seclusion and prevent and reduce the
10 number of physical restraint incidents in
11 Head Start programs;

12 “(iii) an identification of the types of
13 programs and services that have dem-
14 onstrated the greatest effectiveness in
15 eliminating and preventing seclusion and
16 preventing and reducing the number of
17 physical restraint incidents in Head Start
18 programs;

19 “(iv) an identification of evidence-
20 based staff training models with dem-
21 onstrated success in preventing seclusion
22 and preventing and reducing the number
23 of physical restraint incidents in Head
24 Start programs, including models that em-
25 phasize positive behavioral interventions

1 and supports and de-escalation techniques
2 over physical intervention;

3 “(v) recommendations for improve-
4 ments to Head Start programs on the use
5 of discipline practices and the plan of the
6 Secretary to implement such recommenda-
7 tions;

8 “(vi) an evaluation of evidence-based
9 strategies to support children, including
10 multi-tiered systems of support such as
11 systems with positive behavioral interven-
12 tions and supports, mental health sup-
13 ports, restorative justice programs, trau-
14 ma-informed care, and crisis and de-esca-
15 lation interventions in Head Start pro-
16 grams;

17 “(vii) an evaluation of staff training
18 for such strategies; and

19 “(viii) an evaluation of procedures for
20 Head Start agencies and the Secretary to
21 coordinate with appropriate Federal, State,
22 and local policies, programs, or activities
23 regarding the overuse of discipline prac-
24 tices.”.

1 **SEC. 22. REPORTS.**

2 Section 651 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9846),
3 as so redesignated, is amended—

4 (1) by striking “and Labor” each place the
5 term appears and inserting “and Workforce”;

6 (2) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph
8 (1)—

9 (i) by striking “limited English pro-
10 ficient children” and inserting “children
11 who are developing English proficiency”;
12 and

13 (ii) by striking “Indian” and inserting
14 “Native American”;

15 (B) in paragraph (7)—

16 (i) by inserting “benefits,” after “sal-
17 aries,”; and

18 (ii) by striking the semicolon and in-
19 serting the following: “including—

20 “(A) information on how training pro-
21 grams authorized under this subchapter in-
22 creases recruitment and retention of Head
23 Start staff;

24 “(B) information on Head Start staff wage
25 and benefits comparability, taking into account
26 geographic variation, in relation to public ele-

1 mentary school educators and similarly
2 credentialed professionals, and how pay struc-
3 ture and wage ladders influence Head Start
4 staff recruitment and retention; and

5 “(C) information on the adequacy of the
6 annual base salary applicable for the period of
7 the report to meet the basic needs of Head
8 Start staff, with respect to an annual base sal-
9 ary of the amount determined under section
10 653(b);”;

11 (C) in paragraph (8)—

12 (i) by striking “including information
13 on family income” and inserting “,
14 disaggregated by family income levels”;

15 (ii) by inserting “status” after “home-
16 lessness”; and

17 (iii) by striking “disability” and in-
18 serting “sex, status as a child with a dis-
19 ability, age, status as a child developing
20 English proficiency”;

21 (D) in paragraph (13)(B)—

22 (i) by striking “section 649” and in-
23 serting “section 650”; and

24 (ii) by striking “and” after the semi-
25 colon;

1 (E) in paragraph (14), by striking the pe-
2 riod and inserting a semicolon; and

3 (F) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(15) a study detailing the population of chil-
5 dren and families served through the existing eligi-
6 bility of the Head Start program, as of the date of
7 the study, including the demographics and number
8 of children and families served—

9 “(A) with an income that is less than 60
10 percent of the State median income for a family
11 of the same size;

12 “(B) through the categorical eligibility
13 pathways under section 645(a)(1)(B)(ii);

14 “(C) who meet the selection criteria under
15 section 645(d)(1) for Native American Head
16 Start programs; and

17 “(D) who meet the selection criteria under
18 section 645(e) for migrant and seasonal Head
19 Start programs; and

20 “(16) a survey of Head Start and child care
21 partnerships supported under section 657F that de-
22 termines the extent of barriers for such entities to
23 enter into partnership agreements, including sug-
24 gested steps to overcome such barriers, and a de-
25 tailed description of the degree to which Early Head

1 Start agencies are utilizing the funds provided under
2 this subchapter.”;

3 (3) in subsection (b), by striking “Indian Head
4 Start” and all that follows through “agencies.” and
5 inserting “Native American Head Start agencies.”;

6 (4) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “Improving
7 Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007” and
8 inserting “Head Start for America’s Children Act”;

9 (5) in subsection (e), by striking “Improving
10 Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007” and
11 inserting “Head Start for America’s Children Act”;
12 and

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

14 “(f) RE-COMPETITION TRENDS.—Not later than 1
15 year after the date of enactment of the Head Start for
16 America’s Children Act, the Secretary shall make publicly
17 available a report on the trends of re-competition of Head
18 Start programs (which, for purposes of this subsection,
19 shall include Early Head Start programs) since the imple-
20 mentation of the designated renewal system under section
21 641, including—

22 “(1) analyzing changes in Head Start agencies
23 (which, for purposes of this subsection, shall include
24 Early Head Start agencies) and subsequent associa-

1 tions on program quality and outcomes for children,
2 including infants and toddlers;

3 “(2) identifying the number and the character-
4 istics of agencies whose designations as Head Start
5 agencies have been renewed in accordance with the
6 system for designation renewal under section 641(c)
7 since the implementation of the designated renewal
8 system;

9 “(3) identifying the number and the character-
10 istics of agencies whose designations as Head Start
11 agencies have not renewed under section 641(c)
12 since the implementation of the designated renewal
13 system and have resulted in an open competition
14 under section 641(d); and

15 “(4) identifying elements of the designation
16 process that potentially deter new grantees from
17 participating in a competition, including trends in
18 the number of applicants who seek to serve the same
19 community.

20 “(g) STAFFING TRENDS.—Not later than 1 year
21 after the date of enactment of the Head Start for Amer-
22 ica’s Children Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit,
23 to the Committee on Education and Workforce of the
24 House of Representatives and the Committee on Health,
25 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a report

1 detailing the effect that any reduction in staffing at the
2 Administration of Children and Families during the period
3 beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on the date
4 of the report had on executing the statutorily required ac-
5 tivities of this subchapter, including—

6 “(1) the ability for Head Start centers to re-
7 main open and offer day-to-day services to children
8 and their families;

9 “(2) investigations of child health and safety in-
10 cidents;

11 “(3) training and technical assistance to ensure
12 high-quality services for children;

13 “(4) disbursement of congressionally appro-
14 priated funds and grants to local grantees and the
15 review of grant renewal applications and modifica-
16 tions; and

17 “(5) the ability of Native American Head Start
18 agencies to access timely technical assistance, fund-
19 ing, and services from national and regional of-
20 fices.”.

21 **SEC. 23. HEAD START STAFF WAGES.**

22 Section 653 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9848)
23 is amended—

24 (1) by striking the section designation and
25 heading and inserting the following:

1 **“SEC. 653. HEAD START STAFF COMPENSATION.”;**

2 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
3 section (d);

4 (3) striking subsection (a) and inserting the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(a) REFERENCES.—In this section, a reference to
7 a Head Start program includes an Early Head Start pro-
8 gram and a reference to a Head Start agency includes an
9 Early Head Start agency.

10 “(b) STAFF WAGES AND BENEFITS.—The Secretary
11 shall take such action as may be necessary to ensure that
12 persons employed in carrying out Head Start programs
13 financed under this subchapter shall—

14 “(1) receive compensation that—

15 “(A) for Head Start program educational
16 staff, is not less than the higher of—

17 “(i) the amount required in order for
18 parity to be achieved between—

19 “(I) the compensation provided
20 to Head Start program educational
21 staff with similar credentials and ex-
22 perience to elementary school edu-
23 cators employed by the local edu-
24 cational agency serving the area of the
25 Head Start program; and

1 “(II) the compensation provided
2 to such elementary school educators;
3 or

4 “(ii) includes an annual base salary
5 of—

6 “(I) for fiscal year 2026,
7 \$60,000; and

8 “(II) for fiscal year 2027 and
9 each subsequent fiscal year (referred
10 to in this subclause as the ‘determina-
11 tion fiscal year’), an amount equal to
12 the annual base salary under this
13 clause for the preceding year, in-
14 creased by the estimated percentage
15 increase (if any), as determined by the
16 Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
17 ices, in the Consumer Price Index For
18 All Urban Consumers, issued by the
19 Bureau of Labor Statistics, occurring
20 in the most recent fiscal year ending
21 prior to the beginning of such deter-
22 mination fiscal year;

23 “(B) establishes or improves a salary scale,
24 wage ladder, or pay structure for all Head

1 Start program staff that increases with quali-
2 fications and experience;

3 “(C) sufficiently provides a livable and
4 competitive salary for all Head Start program
5 staff within the agency’s service area;

6 “(D) ensures comparability of compensa-
7 tion across Head Start preschool and Early
8 Head Start staff positions; and

9 “(E) ensures Head Start agencies provide
10 compensation and benefits that are—

11 “(i) based on staff responsibilities,
12 qualifications, training, and experience;
13 and

14 “(ii) updated not less than once every
15 3 years;

16 “(2) provide or facilitate access to competitive
17 benefits for Head Start program staff working not
18 less than 30 hours per week, such as—

19 “(A) high-quality, affordable health cov-
20 erage;

21 “(B) paid personal leave; and

22 “(C) access to short-term, free or minimal
23 cost behavioral health services;

1 “(3) facilitate access to high-quality, affordable
2 health care coverage for staff working less than 30
3 hours per week; and

4 “(4) facilitate access to high-quality, affordable
5 child care and to the public service loan forgiveness
6 program under section 455(m) of the Higher Edu-
7 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)).

8 “(c) REBUILDING THE HEAD START WORKFORCE
9 GRANTS.—

10 “(1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
12 award grants, on a competitive basis, to Head
13 Start agencies to meet the immediate staff
14 needs and enhance the program quality of Head
15 Start programs.

16 “(B) DURATION.—A grant award under
17 this subsection shall be for a period of not more
18 than 5 years.

19 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—A Head Start agency de-
20 siring a grant under this subsection shall submit to
21 the Secretary an application at such time, in such
22 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
23 retary may require. Such application shall include—

24 “(A) information regarding—

1 “(i) the current staff of the Head
2 Start agency, as of the date of application,
3 including the number of staff employed,
4 the positions and responsibilities of such
5 staff, the degrees held by such staff (as ap-
6 plicable), and the early childhood education
7 experience of such staff; and

8 “(ii) the current unfilled staffing
9 needs of the Head Start agency, as of the
10 date of application;

11 “(B) a description of the recruitment and
12 retention activities proposed to be conducted by
13 the eligible agency under the grant, such as
14 professional development activities and plans to
15 ensure new staff are well-supported and well-
16 compensated; and

17 “(C) plans to address immediate staff
18 needs to enhance program quality and improve
19 Head Start program services to eligible children
20 and families.

21 “(3) RESERVATIONS.—From amounts appro-
22 priated to carry out this subsection, the Secretary
23 shall reserve not less than a total of 4.5 percent to
24 award grants to—

1 “(A) American Indian, Alaska Native, and
2 Native Hawaiian Head Start agencies; and

3 “(B) migrant and seasonal Head Start
4 agencies.

5 “(4) PRIORITY.—Subject to paragraph (3), the
6 Secretary shall give priority to applications that pro-
7 pose to, in accordance with paragraph (1)—

8 “(A) address staffing shortages that are
9 associated with a reduction in funding for the
10 Head Start agency due to chronic underenroll-
11 ment, in accordance with section 641A(h);

12 “(B) increase the staff skills and qualifica-
13 tions to meet the diverse (including linguistic
14 and cultural) needs of eligible children (includ-
15 ing infants and toddlers with disabilities, chil-
16 dren with disabilities, homeless children, chil-
17 dren in foster or kinship care, children who re-
18 ceive care during additional hours not typically
19 included in a full calendar year schedule and
20 children who are developing English pro-
21 ficiency) and their families;

22 “(C) increase capacity to serve children
23 who have been identified as part of underserved
24 populations, rural communities, or areas of per-
25 sistent poverty; and

1 “(D) support and incorporate Native
2 American languages and cultural instruction for
3 Native American Head Start programs.

4 “(5) USES OF FUNDS.—A Head Start agency
5 that receives a grant under this subsection shall use
6 grant funds for not less than 1 of the following:

7 “(A) Providing recruitment and retention
8 bonuses for Head Start staff, particularly edu-
9 cators and mental health consultants.

10 “(B) Supporting the mental health of
11 Head Start staff.

12 “(C) Delivering or facilitating professional
13 development and instructional coaching for
14 Head Start staff, particularly those who are in-
15 volved in the direct education and care of chil-
16 dren.

17 “(6) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall con-
18 duct an evaluation to assess the effectiveness of
19 grants under this subsection in—

20 “(A) attracting and retaining Head Start
21 educators and other staff, particularly—

22 “(i) in rural communities;

23 “(ii) to meet linguistically and cul-
24 turally appropriate needs aligned with
25 community needs assessments; and

1 “(iii) to support the mental health
 2 and well-being of children, families, and
 3 staff; and

4 “(B) expanding the capacity of Head Start
 5 agencies to support children and families with
 6 health, mental health, educational, nutritional,
 7 social, and other services.”; and

8 (4) in subsection (d)(2), as so redesignated—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

10 (i) by striking “includes salary” and
 11 inserting the following: “the sum of—

12 “(i) the base salary, calculated as an
 13 annual rate of pay; and”; and

14 (ii) by striking “bonuses, periodic pay-
 15 ments, severance pay,” and inserting the
 16 following:

17 “(ii) severance pay,”; and

18 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “bo-
 19 nuses, stipends, awards, periodic payments,
 20 and” before “any Head Start agency”.

21 **SEC. 24. NONDISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS.**

22 Section 654(c) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
 23 9849(c)) is amended by striking “handicapping condition”
 24 and inserting “disability”.

1 **SEC. 25. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.**

2 Section 657B of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
3 9852b) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “Indian”
5 and inserting “Native American”;

6 (2) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(ii)—

8 (i) in the clause heading, by striking
9 “INDIAN” and inserting “NATIVE AMER-
10 ICAN HEAD START”; and

11 (ii) by striking “an Indian” and in-
12 serting “a Native American”;

13 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “an In-
14 dian” and inserting “a Native American”; and

15 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “limited
16 English proficient children” and inserting “chil-
17 dren who are developing English proficiency”;

18 (3) in subsection (d)(1)(B), by striking “limited
19 English proficient children” and inserting “children
20 who are developing English proficiency”;

21 (4) in subsection (e)(2), by striking “Improving
22 Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007” and
23 inserting “Head Start for America’s Children Act”;
24 and

25 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “2008 through
26 2012” and inserting “2026 through 2030”.

1 **SEC. 26. COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PILOT PROGRAM.**

2 The Head Start Act is amended—

3 (1) by redesignating section 657C (42 U.S.C.
4 9852c) as section 657G; and

5 (2) by inserting after section 657B the fol-
6 lowing:

7 **“SEC. 657C. COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PILOT PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) COMMUNITY.—The term ‘community’
10 means—

11 “(A) a city, county, or multicity or multi-
12 county unit within a State;

13 “(B) an Indian reservation, including Indi-
14 ans in any off-reservation area designated by an
15 appropriate Tribal government, in consultation
16 with the Secretary;

17 “(C) an area served by a Native Hawaiian
18 organization or Native Hawaiian educational
19 organization; or

20 “(D) a neighborhood or other area (irre-
21 spectively of boundaries or political subdivisions).

22 “(2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term ‘covered
23 agency’ means a Head Start agency, including an
24 Early Head Start agency.

1 “(3) COVERED PROGRAM.—The term ‘covered
2 program’ means a Head Start program, including an
3 Early Head Start program.

4 “(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ‘pilot pro-
5 gram’ means the pilot program established under
6 subsection (b).

7 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY
8 PILOT PROGRAMS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-
10 able to carry out this section, the Secretary shall es-
11 tablish a pilot program under which the Secretary
12 shall provide authority and additional funds to a
13 covered agency serving a local community of high
14 poverty through a covered program to enable the
15 covered agency to enroll all children within the age
16 range served by the covered agency living in such
17 community in the covered program, without regard
18 to the eligibility criteria under section 645 or 645A,
19 as applicable.

20 “(2) NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—
21 The Secretary shall select not more than 10 covered
22 agencies to participate in the pilot program during
23 the period of the pilot program.

24 “(c) APPLICATION.—A covered agency desiring to
25 participate in the pilot program shall submit to the Sec-

1 retary an application at such time, in such manner, and
2 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

3 “(d) CONSIDERATIONS.—In approving applications
4 for participation in the pilot program, the Secretary shall
5 consider—

6 “(1) how the covered program supported under
7 the pilot program will be meeting the needs of chil-
8 dren in the local community served;

9 “(2) the demographics of the local community
10 to be served;

11 “(3) various metrics for determining a high rate
12 of poverty in a local community;

13 “(4) whether proposed outreach efforts to the
14 local community served are linguistically and cul-
15 turally inclusive; and

16 “(5) the plans of the covered agency for
17 prioritizing children with the greatest need in the
18 local community if the capacity of the covered agen-
19 cy or covered program is limited.

20 “(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In carrying out the
21 pilot program, the Secretary shall provide technical assist-
22 ance, training, and materials to covered agencies selected
23 to participate in the pilot program.

1 “(f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall conduct an
2 evaluation of the pilot program to assess the effectiveness
3 of the pilot program in—

4 “(1) meeting the needs of children and families
5 not otherwise eligible for covered programs;

6 “(2) improving the identification of children
7 from low-income backgrounds, children facing hard-
8 ship, and children in local areas of high poverty;

9 “(3) reducing barriers to participation and en-
10 rollment in the covered program;

11 “(4) ensuring program quality and effectiveness
12 in meeting the standards described in section 641A;
13 and

14 “(5) providing or connecting families with serv-
15 ices to support the health, mental health, edu-
16 cational, nutritional, and social needs of their chil-
17 dren and themselves.

18 “(g) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to the
19 Committee on Education and Workforce of the House of
20 Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education,
21 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate—

22 “(1) by not later than the date that is 2 years
23 after the date on which the pilot program is imple-
24 mented, a report containing information on the ini-
25 tial results of the pilot program, including the demo-

1 graphic and income data of children and families eli-
 2 gible and enrolled in covered programs under the
 3 pilot program; and

4 “(2) during the period beginning on the last
 5 day of the pilot program (including any extension
 6 authorized under subsection (h)) and ending on the
 7 date that is 2 years after such last day, a report
 8 containing recommendations to improve the identi-
 9 fication of children and families eligible to partici-
 10 pate in a covered program residing in local commu-
 11 nities of high and persistent poverty.

12 “(h) TERMINATION.—The pilot program carried out
 13 under this section (except with respect to the report de-
 14 scribed in subsection (g)(2)) shall cease to have effect on
 15 the last day of the 5-year period beginning on the day
 16 that the first grant is awarded under this section, except
 17 that the Secretary may elect to extend the pilot program
 18 for 1 additional period of not more than 3 years.”.

19 **SEC. 27. HEAD START AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF**
 20 **HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS.**

21 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) is
 22 amended by inserting after section 657C, as added by sec-
 23 tion 26, the following:

1 **“SEC. 657D. HEAD START AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF**
2 **HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term ‘eligible
5 agency’ means a Head Start agency, including an
6 Early Head Start agency.

7 “(2) ELIGIBLE PROGRAM.—The term ‘eligible
8 program’ means a Head Start program, including an
9 Early Head Start program.

10 “(3) HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
11 term ‘Hispanic-serving institution’ has the meaning
12 given such term in section 502(a) of the Higher
13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)).

14 “(4) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
15 VERSITY.—The term ‘historically Black college or
16 university’ has the meaning given the term ‘part B
17 institution’ in section 322 of the Higher Education
18 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

19 “(5) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
20 term ‘minority-serving institution’ means an institu-
21 tion described in any of paragraphs (1) through (7)
22 of section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of
23 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

24 “(6) STUDENT PARENT.—The term ‘student
25 parent’, with respect to an institution of higher edu-
26 cation, means an individual who—

1 “(A) is a parent;

2 “(B) is enrolled in a program of postsec-
3 ondary education at such institution; and

4 “(C) whose child is eligible for an eligible
5 program.

6 “(7) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
7 term ‘Tribal College or University’ has the meaning
8 given the term in section 316(b) of the Higher Edu-
9 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

10 “(b) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-
12 able to carry out this section, the Secretary shall
13 make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible agen-
14 cies to form partnerships with institutions of higher
15 education to support the participation of student
16 parents in on-campus eligible programs.

17 “(2) DURATION.—An award made under para-
18 graph (1) shall be for a period of 5 years, with an
19 opportunity for renewal for additional 3-year periods
20 in accordance with subsection (f)(2).

21 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under
22 subsection (b) shall be used by a partnership between an
23 eligible agency and an institution of higher education to
24 support or establish a campus-based eligible program to

1 serve the needs of student parents enrolled in the institu-
2 tion.

3 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible agency desiring a
4 grant under this section shall submit an application to the
5 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied
6 by such information as the Secretary may require. Each
7 application shall—

8 “(1) describe the partnership with the institu-
9 tion of higher education involved;

10 “(2) specify the amount of funds requested;

11 “(3) demonstrate the need of student parents
12 at the institution for campus-based Head Start serv-
13 ices by including—

14 “(A) information regarding student demo-
15 graphics and income;

16 “(B) information regarding the existence
17 of waiting lists for existing Head Start agencies
18 (including Early Head Start agencies) in the
19 community surrounding the institution;

20 “(C) information regarding additional
21 needs created by concentrations of poverty or
22 by geographic isolation; and

23 “(D) other relevant data;

24 “(4) contain a description of the activities to be
25 assisted, including whether the grant funds will sup-

1 port an existing eligible program (as of the date of
2 application) or a new eligible program;

3 “(5) identify the resources, including technical
4 expertise and financial support, the Head Start
5 agency will draw upon to support the partnership
6 and the participation of student parents; and

7 “(6) in the case of an eligible agency seeking
8 assistance for a new eligible program located on an
9 institution’s campus—

10 “(A) provide a timeline, covering the pe-
11 riod from receipt of the grant through the pro-
12 vision of the services, delineating the specific
13 steps the agency and institution will take to
14 achieve the goal of reaching student parents;
15 and

16 “(B) include a plan for identifying—

17 “(i) resources needed for the partner-
18 ship, including space in which to provide
19 the eligible program;

20 “(ii) community services and partner-
21 ships; and

22 “(iii) technical assistance if necessary.

23 “(e) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority in
24 awarding partnership grants under this section to eligible
25 agencies that propose to support eligible programs that—

1 “(1) partner with historically Black colleges and
2 universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, or
3 other minority-serving institutions, including His-
4 panic-serving institutions;

5 “(2) meet the needs of underserved children
6 and institutions of higher education with high popu-
7 lations of student parents; or

8 “(3) serve a high proportion of student parents
9 who are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant under sec-
10 tion 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
11 U.S.C. 1070a).

12 “(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; CONTINUING ELI-
13 GIBILITY.—

14 “(1) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

15 “(A) REPORTS.—Each eligible agency re-
16 ceiving a grant under this section shall submit
17 a report to the Secretary annually.

18 “(B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
19 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

20 “(i) data on the population served
21 under the grant under this section;

22 “(ii) information on campus and com-
23 munity resources and funding used to help
24 student parents access the eligible program
25 supported under the grant;

1 “(iii) information on the impact of the
2 grant on the quality or availability of cam-
3 pus-based early childhood education serv-
4 ices at the institution of higher education;
5 and

6 “(iv) information on how the partner-
7 ship influences the educational opportuni-
8 ties for student parents at such institution.

9 “(2) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew a
10 grant under this section on the basis of the reports
11 submitted under paragraph (1) if the Secretary de-
12 termines that the institution with which the eligible
13 entity is partnering is making a good-faith effort to
14 ensure that student parents at the institution have
15 access to eligible programs.

16 “(g) COORDINATION.—An eligible agency receiving a
17 grant under this section and the institution of higher edu-
18 cation with which the eligible agency is partnering may
19 coordinate services and grant funds provided under this
20 section with campus-based child care services supported
21 under the Child Care Access Means Parents in School pro-
22 gram under section 419N of the Higher Education Act
23 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070e).”.

1 **SEC. 28. EXTENDED OPERATION GRANTS.**

2 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) is
3 amended by inserting after section 657D, as added by sec-
4 tion 27, the following:

5 **“SEC. 657E. EXTENDED OPERATION GRANTS.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term ‘eligible
8 agency’ means a Head Start agency, including an
9 Early Head Start agency.

10 “(2) ELIGIBLE PROGRAM.—The term ‘eligible
11 program’ means a Head Start program, including an
12 Early Head Start program.

13 “(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From amounts made
14 available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall
15 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible agencies
16 to enable the eligible agencies to extend the hours of oper-
17 ation of eligible programs by providing center-based serv-
18 ices under this subchapter for full-working-day operations
19 (which may include hours during summer months) during
20 a year.

21 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible agency desiring a
22 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an
23 application at such time, in such manner, and containing
24 such information as the Secretary may require.

25 “(d) AWARD BASIS.—

26 “(1) RESERVATIONS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made
2 available to carry out this section, the Secretary
3 may reserve not less than a total of 4.5 percent
4 of such amounts to award grants, in accordance
5 with subparagraph (B), to—

6 “(i) Native American Head Start
7 agencies (including Early Head Start
8 agencies); or

9 “(ii) migrant and seasonal Head Start
10 agencies (including Early Head Start
11 agencies).

12 “(B) MODIFIED GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—
13 A Native American Head Start agency or mi-
14 grant and seasonal Head Start agency (includ-
15 ing a Native American or migrant and seasonal
16 Early Head Start agency) receiving a grant
17 under subparagraph (A)—

18 “(i) shall use grant funds, in accord-
19 ance with subsection (e), to provide center-
20 based services under this subchapter for a
21 schedule that includes additional hours;
22 and

23 “(ii) notwithstanding subsection (b),
24 shall not be required to provide such serv-
25 ices for a full-working-day schedule, unless

1 the agency determines it appropriate to do
2 so.

3 “(2) PRIORITY.—After carrying out the res-
4 ervation under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
5 give priority to applications that propose to, in ac-
6 cordance with subsection (b)—

7 “(A) extend the hours of operation of the
8 eligible program, as described in such sub-
9 section;

10 “(B) continue high-quality programs and
11 services during the summer months, particu-
12 larly in communities with limited child care and
13 early education options;

14 “(C) increase operations to serve children
15 who have been identified as part of underserved
16 populations, from rural communities, or from
17 areas of persistent poverty; and

18 “(D) provide additional hours of operation
19 that better support the work schedules of local
20 families.

21 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible agency that re-
22 ceives a grant under this section shall use grant funds for
23 the costs of 1 or more of the following:

24 “(1) Providing compensation for staff of the eli-
25 gible program, particularly for the extended hours of

1 operation of the eligible program, as described in
 2 subsection (b).

3 “(2) Facility upgrades, furniture, materials,
 4 supplies, and other operational costs associated with
 5 extending the hours of operation of the eligible pro-
 6 gram.”.

7 **SEC. 29. HEAD START AND CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS.**

8 The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) is
 9 amended by inserting after section 657E, as added by sec-
 10 tion 28, the following:

11 **“SEC. 657F. HEAD START AND CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS.**

12 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) CHILD CARE PROVIDER.—The term ‘child
 14 care provider’ means a center-based or family child
 15 care provider.

16 “(2) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term ‘eligible
 17 agency’ means a Head Start agency, including an
 18 Early Head Start agency.

19 “(3) ELIGIBLE PROGRAM.—The term ‘eligible
 20 program’ means a Head Start program, including an
 21 Early Head Start program.

22 “(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-
 24 able to carry out this section, the Secretary shall

1 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible
2 agencies to enable the eligible agencies to—

3 “(A) enter into a partnership described in
4 subsection (c) with 1 or more child care pro-
5 viders, particularly child care providers that re-
6 ceive support under the Child Care and Devel-
7 opment Block Grant of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9857
8 et seq.); and

9 “(B) coordinate with relevant early edu-
10 cation programs in the agency’s service area.

11 “(c) PARTNERSHIPS.—An eligible agency that re-
12 ceives a grant under this section shall enter into a contrac-
13 tual relationship with a child care provider to improve the
14 quality of the child care provider’s child care programs
15 so that the child care provider meets the program perform-
16 ance standards under section 641A, through activities that
17 may include—

18 “(1) expanding the child care programs of the
19 child care provider through financial support;

20 “(2) providing support to the child care pro-
21 vider staff with professional development;

22 “(3) blending funds received by either partner
23 under the Child Care and Development Block Grant
24 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9857 et seq.) and the eligible
25 program under this section in order to provide high-

1 quality child care for a full working day, in order to
2 increase the availability of high-quality child care
3 and early education;

4 “(4) creating a clear and realizable timeline to
5 increase the quality and capacity of a child care pro-
6 vider so that the provider meets the program per-
7 formance standards under section 641A; and

8 “(5) aligning activities and services provided
9 through funding under this section with the Head
10 Start Child Outcomes Framework.

11 “(d) PRIORITY.—To create a strong continuum of
12 high-quality services for children from birth to school
13 entry, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible agencies
14 who propose to create strong alignment of—

15 “(1) programs with maternal, infant, and early
16 childhood home visiting programs assisted under sec-
17 tion 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711);

18 “(2) State-funded prekindergarten programs;

19 “(3) programs carried out under the Individuals
20 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et
21 seq.); and

22 “(4) programs carried out under the Child Care
23 and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42
24 U.S.C. 9857 et seq.).

1 “(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
 2 provide technical assistance and training under section
 3 648 to eligible agencies and child care providers with re-
 4 spect to the development or implementation of such part-
 5 nerships.

6 “(f) STANDARDS.—Prior to awarding a grant to any
 7 eligible agency under this section, the Secretary shall es-
 8 tablish standards to ensure the responsibility and expecta-
 9 tions of the eligible agency and the partnering child care
 10 providers are clearly defined.

11 “(g) EXEMPTION.—A child care provider that partici-
 12 pates in a partnership under this section and receives as-
 13 sistance through a grant under this section shall be ex-
 14 empt, for a period of 36 months, from the designation re-
 15 newal requirements under section 641(c).”.

16 **SEC. 30. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

17 Subsection (b) of section 657G of the Head Start Act
 18 (42 U.S.C. 9852c), as so redesignated, is amended to read
 19 as follows:

20 “(b) SPECIAL RULES.—

21 “(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING CUR-
 22 RICULUM.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be con-
 23 strued to authorize a Head Start program or a local
 24 educational agency to require the other to select or

1 implement a specific curriculum or program of in-
2 struction.

3 “(2) PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY
4 REQUIREMENTS.—No child or family shall be deter-
5 mined by the Secretary or a Head Start agency (in-
6 cluding an Early Head Start agency) to be ineligible
7 for services provided under this subchapter except
8 on the basis of the eligibility requirements specified
9 under this subchapter.

10 “(3) NONAPPLICABILITY FOR CERTAIN PRO-
11 GRAMS.—Nothing regarding full calendar year re-
12 quirements in this subchapter shall apply to Native
13 American Head Start programs and migrant and
14 seasonal Head Start programs, consistent with sec-
15 tion 642(j)(3).”.

○