

# Union Calendar No. 513

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

# H. R. 7677

**[Report No. 119-593]**

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study regarding fraud prevention measures in certain Federal early childhood education, child care, and child nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Mr. OWENS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

APRIL 6, 2026

Additional sponsor: Ms. LETLOW

APRIL 6, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 25, 2026]

# **A BILL**

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study regarding fraud prevention measures in certain Federal early childhood education, child care, and child nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        *This Act may be cited as the “Closing the Provider*  
5 *Fraud Gap Act of 2026”.*

6 **SEC. 2. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON PROVIDER-RELATED**  
7                    **FRAUD.**

8        *(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United*  
9 *States shall conduct a study regarding fraud prevention*  
10 *measures in Federal early childhood education, child care,*  
11 *and child nutrition programs that shall include an analysis*  
12 *of—*

13                    *(1) the effectiveness of procedures and measures*  
14 *to prevent fraud carried out by providers of services*  
15 *under such programs;*

16                    *(2) whether the data the Federal Government re-*  
17 *ceives in connection with such programs (including*  
18 *through audits and reporting requirements) is—*

19                            *(A) sufficient to successfully identify fraud*  
20 *carried out under such programs; and*

21                            *(B) used effectively by the Federal Govern-*  
22 *ment to identify potential fraud carried out*  
23 *under such programs; and*

24                    *(3) with respect to the Child Care and Develop-*  
25 *ment Block Grant program established under the*

1 *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990*  
2 *(42 U.S.C. 9857 et seq.)—*

3 *(A) the program integrity results for States*  
4 *that have delegated responsibilities related to*  
5 *program management and administration to*  
6 *counties, local municipalities, or other entities;*  
7 *and*

8 *(B) whether any corrective action plans*  
9 *have been implemented by States to improve pro-*  
10 *gram integrity results, including any measurable*  
11 *outcomes from implementing such a corrective*  
12 *action plan.*

13 *(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date*  
14 *of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the*  
15 *United States shall submit to the Committee on Education*  
16 *and Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Com-*  
17 *mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the*  
18 *Senate a report containing—*

19 *(1) the results of the study conducted under sub-*  
20 *section (a); and*

21 *(2) any regulatory or legislative recommenda-*  
22 *tions to improve fraud prevention measures in Fed-*  
23 *eral early childhood education, child care, and child*  
24 *nutrition programs.*

1           (c) *FEDERAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, CHILD*  
2 *CARE, AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS DEFINED.*—*For*  
3 *the purposes of this section, the term “Federal early child-*  
4 *hood education, child care, and child nutrition programs”*  
5 *includes—*

6           (1) *Head Start programs (including Early Head*  
7 *Start programs) carried out under the Head Start*  
8 *Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);*

9           (2) *the Child and Adult Care Food Program*  
10 *under section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National*  
11 *School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766); and*

12           (3) *the Child Care and Development Block Grant*  
13 *program established under the Child Care and Devel-*  
14 *opment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9857 et*  
15 *seq.).*

Union Calendar No. 513

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

**H. R. 7677**

[Report No. 119-593]

---

---

**A BILL**

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study regarding fraud prevention measures in certain Federal early childhood education, child care, and child nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

---

---

APRIL 6, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed