

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2739

To amend the Public Health Service Act to promote healthy eating and physical activity among children.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Mr. BOOKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to promote healthy eating and physical activity among children.

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 “Reducing Obesity in  
5 Youth Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to establish a program that will enhance the  
9 training and knowledge of early care and education  
10 providers and influence practices, policies, and envi-

1       ronments in early care and education settings to  
 2       support healthy eating and physical activity for chil-  
 3       dren ages birth through 5, including by addressing  
 4       the growing threat of food insecurity;

5               (2) to provide support to States on ways to link  
 6       early care and education programs to nutrition sup-  
 7       ports;

8               (3) to monitor progress of healthy eating and  
 9       physical activity promotion in early care and edu-  
 10      cation settings; and

11              (4) to identify emerging, and expand existing,  
 12      approaches to engaging families and parents of chil-  
 13      dren ages birth to 5 in healthy eating and physical  
 14      activity.

15   **SEC. 3. HEALTHY KIDS PROGRAM.**

16       Part Q of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
 17   (42 U.S.C. 280h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
 18   the following:

19   **“SEC. 399Z-3. HEALTHY KIDS GRANT PROGRAM.**

20       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
 21   the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
 22   vention (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’) and  
 23   in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for the Ad-  
 24   ministration for Children and Families, shall award 5-year  
 25   competitive grants to one or more eligible entities—

1 “(1) to improve healthy eating and physical ac-  
2 tivity among children ages birth through 5 years in  
3 early care and education settings; and

4 “(2) to address food insecurity among such  
5 children.

6 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
7 under subsection (a), an entity shall be—

8 “(1) a nonprofit organization with expertise in  
9 early childhood health and childhood obesity preven-  
10 tion;

11 “(2) an institution of higher education (as de-  
12 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of  
13 1965) or research center that employs faculty with  
14 relevant expertise and has expertise in training early  
15 care and education providers; or

16 “(3) a consortium of entities described in para-  
17 graphs (1) and (2) that submit a single application  
18 to carry out activities under the grant jointly.

19 “(c) APPLICATION.—An entity seeking a grant under  
20 subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary an application  
21 at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-  
22 mation as the Secretary may require.

23 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An entity shall use  
25 amounts received under a grant under this section to

1 work directly with implementing partners, which  
2 may include States, territories, Indian Tribes, mu-  
3 nicipalities, and nonprofit organizations—

4 “(A) to create sustainable programs to  
5 train early care and education providers  
6 through direct coaching and peer-learning, ac-  
7 cess to quality technical assistance, and profes-  
8 sional development opportunities that are fo-  
9 cused on healthy eating, physical activity, ad-  
10 dressing food insecurity, and other topics that  
11 support children’s healthy development, as de-  
12 termined by the Secretary;

13 “(B) to build State capacity through train-  
14 ing, technical assistance, and resources to inte-  
15 grate the promotion of healthy eating and phys-  
16 ical activity into existing early care and edu-  
17 cation programs, systems, and initiatives, in-  
18 cluding linking early care and education pro-  
19 grams to new and existing resources for nutri-  
20 tion supports, with a focus on promoting equity;  
21 and

22 “(C) to test innovative or evidence-in-  
23 formed approaches to promoting healthy habits  
24 and healthy child development in early care and  
25 education settings, which may include linking

1 early care and education and health care pro-  
2 viders, enhancing early care and education staff  
3 wellness, enhancing access to quality foods in  
4 the early care and education settings, and en-  
5 gaging families of children ages birth to 5 years  
6 served in the early care and education programs  
7 supported by a grant under this section.

8 “(2) IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS.—In selecting  
9 implementing partners under paragraph (1), a re-  
10 cipient of a grant under this section shall ensure  
11 that such partners—

12 “(A) serve populations that are racially,  
13 ethnically, socioeconomically, and geographically  
14 diverse; and

15 “(B) represent a mix of rural and urban  
16 settings.

17 “(3) NATIONAL INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR.—  
18 From the amounts appropriated to carry out this  
19 section, and prior to awarding any grants under  
20 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall enter into a con-  
21 tract with an external entity to create a single, uni-  
22 form process to—

23 “(A) ensure that entities that receive  
24 grants under paragraph (1) comply with the re-  
25 quirements of this section; and

1                   “(B) evaluate the outcomes of the grant  
2                   activities carried out by each participating enti-  
3                   ty.

4           “(e) TRACKING STATE PROGRESS.—The Secretary  
5 may use amounts appropriated under subsection (h)(2) to  
6 enter into contracts with, or award grants to, institutions  
7 of higher education, nonprofit organizations, or other enti-  
8 ties with relevant monitoring and surveillance expertise,  
9 for purposes of—

10           “(1) tracking State progress in obesity preven-  
11           tion policies and practices of early care and edu-  
12           cation programs in States where grantees are  
13           present; and

14           “(2) measuring changes in food security within  
15           exposed groups.

16           “(f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the com-  
17           pletion of the programs and activities (including moni-  
18           toring and surveillance under subsection (e)) funded under  
19           grants awarded under this section, the Secretary shall sub-  
20           mit to Congress, and all appropriate Federal agencies, a  
21           report concerning an evaluation of the results of such pro-  
22           grams and activities, including best practices, and lessons  
23           derived from the experiences of grantees, with respect to  
24           reducing and preventing food insecurity and obesity and

1 overweight among children ages birth through 5 years in  
 2 the early care and education settings.

3 “(g) EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION DEFINED.—In  
 4 this section, the term ‘early care and education’ means  
 5 programs and activities that serve children ages birth  
 6 through 5 years either through in-home or out-of-home  
 7 settings, including childcare programs, Head Start pro-  
 8 grams, family childcare, and pre-kindergarten programs.

9 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
 11 appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for  
 12 each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

13 “(2) FUNDING FOR TRACKING STATE  
 14 PROGRESS.—In addition to amounts made available  
 15 under paragraph (1), there is authorized to be ap-  
 16 propriated to carry out subsection (e) \$1,700,000  
 17 for fiscal year 2026.”.

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