



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAHALL AND COLLEAGUES WIN ONE FOR THE KIDS

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, breathed a sigh of relief as passage was gained on his committee's three year fight for federal funded child care.

"We won one for the kids," said Rahall. "We were able to look beyond the short-sightedness of the political process and look at the things that really matter: our future and our children's future."

The House, by a vote of 265 to 145, passed the bill that would provide nearly \$30 billion over the next five years. The bill would create new school programs for "latchkey" moms, set up a system of vouchers for parents, and provide income tax credits for low-income families.

"Keeping our children safe is hard enough with all the problems and pressures that they face at school," said Rahall. "So if we can keep youngsters from having to go home after school to an empty house while their parents work, then I think we have been successful. This bill does, and I think we have."

Rahall added that in Fiscal Year 1991, funding is set at \$450 million, rising to \$700 million by Fiscal Year 1995. He also added that of the \$30 billion provided for in the bill, \$18 billion of that will go to low-income parents in the form of an earned income tax credit with the remainder going to expanded Head Start and school-based before and after care programs."

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COMPARISON OF H.R. 3 AND STENHOLM/SHAW PROPOSAL

Expansion of Head Start

H.R. 3: Authorizes \$611 million for full-day/full-year developmentally appropriate care

STENHOLM: Authorizes \$600 million to expand the Head Start program in FY 91. However, only 50% of these funds shall be available for full-day/full-year developmentally appropriate care

Early Childhood Education and Before- and After-School Care

H.R. 3: Authorizes \$429 million for FY 91 for early childhood education and before- and after-school care

STENHOLM: No Early Childhood Education Component for at-risk three- and four-year-olds. Stenholm/Shaw does not specifically earmark funds for before- and after-school care. This is just one of the ten child care-related services that states may provide.

Child Care Quality Improvement Activities

H.R. 3: Authorizes \$260 million to improve child care quality activities. States establish their own priorities for carrying out in each fiscal year one or more of these activities.

STENHOLM: No quality of care provision

Despite the fact that experts agree that quality care compensates for disadvantaged family environments and promotes better intellectual and social development for children, the Stenholm/Shaw proposal does not target funds for quality or the improvement of child care services.

Small Business Involvement in Meeting Employee Child Care Needs

H.R. 3: Authorizes 25 million for a grant program to be administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Priority is given to businesses with less than 100 employees

Small businesses must match federal dollars 2:1

STENHOLM: Authorizes \$25 million for a grant program to be administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services

Grants are restricted to businesses with less than 50 employees

Small businesses must match federal dollars 3:1

RAHALL VOTES ON CHILD CARE

Rep. Nick Rahall said today that after four years of effort to establish a national policy on child care bill, Congress yesterday passed H.R. 3, the Early Childhood Education and Development Act, after many modifications to the bill.

Three amendments were offered to H.R. 3 during the day-long debate. Rahall voted as follows:

Would have
PRICE AMENDMENT: This amendment struck, from both the Leadership bill (HR 3) and the Stenholm/Shaw Substitute bill, the word "mandatory vouchers" and replaced them with the words "permissible use of vouchers". This amendment, which Rahall supported, was intended to support the states, giving them the choice in whether they would, or would not, implement and operate a statewide voucher system for providing child care. A statewide voucher system, said Rahall, is very expensive to set up and run, and I feel that the State is already struggling to find money to comply with Federal mandates from Washington, and should not have another mandate levied against them. *Regrettably, the amendment failed adoption.*

EDWARDS AMENDMENT: This amendment was intended to strike language from both the Stenholm Substitute and the Leadership bill which may be construed by the courts as a violation of the Constitution of the United States protecting religious freedom. While I feel strongly about the founding of this nation on the premise that all people have the right to worship as they please, said Rahall, I also feel strongly that those parents seeking church-based child care ought to have the opportunity to obtain child care that ~~includes~~ *combines* religious instruction if that is their wish.

Rahall's vote against the Edwards amendment, however, *"comes with a built-in court challenge on constitutional grounds,"* ~~and if that happens,~~ *he warned,* ~~said Rahall,~~ *no funds will go to churches for child care as long as the issue remains before the courts, which could take years.* "I decided to let the courts ~~decide~~ *determine* once and for all, if providing direct assistance to churches for children's education or ~~child~~ *day care* is unconstitutional. We need to know more precisely where that fine line of separation between church and state is, so that we can truly guard against its violation," ~~said Rahall.~~ *Said.*

also
I ~~also~~ wanted to be responsive to hundreds of parents who called me who felt strongly on this issue, said Rahall. "Opposing Edwards was the only vote I had to give parents desiring church-based care the same opportunity as parents who do not, when it comes to benefiting from the billions of dollars we hope to expend on child care over the next *half* decade, ~~or more.~~"

STENHOLM SUBSTITUTE: Rahall voted against Stenholm for the very basic reason that this child care bill is intended to serve the working poor, as well as nonworking parents who now may be on welfare because they can't find or can't afford child care that would permit them to

leave home for jobs every day. Head Start was expanded greatly in the the Leadership bill, including year-round, all-day (rather than half-day) Head Start services for poor children, and provides job training and education for their parents if they require it in order to find work. "Stenholm not only cut the expanded program funding by \$300 million, he cut the regular Head Start program by the same amount. That is something I will never permit if I can help it," said Rahall.

On final passage, Rahall supported the Committee version of the bill, on which he has worked personally for the past two years, because it provides for school based before-and-after care for latch-key children. "Keeping our children safe is hard enough," said Rahall, "and if we can keep youngsters from having to go home after school to an empty house, and possible bad influence from their peers while they are unsupervised, then it is urgent that we make it possible, which this bill does."

Rahall Concluded,

As for funding levels, in FY 1991, under the bill as passed, funding is set at \$450 million, rising to \$700 million by FY 1995. When you hear that billions of dollars will be spent on child care, ~~said~~ Rahall, please keep in mind that \$18 billion of the \$26 billion figure will go to low income parents in the form of an earned income tax credit, which I supported, with the remainder, ~~over a five year period,~~ going to expanded Head Start and school-based before and after care programs *spread over five years.*

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Floor

Today

COMPARISON OF CHILD CARE ALTERNATIVES

March 29, 1990

STENHOLM/SHAW: H.R. 4294

H.R. 3 AS AMENDED: H.R. 4381

1. Standards

No federal standards; states have the option of using Title XX money to implement standards.

41 pages of standards and mandates (pp. 18-28, 43-49, 75-88, 92-99) regarding such items as: minimum training requirements, child-staff ratios, qualifications and background of staff, parental involvement, and enforcement requirements. Restricts states from ever reducing their standards.

2. Parental Choice

Guarantees all parents who receive a child care certificate the freedom to use that certificate with any child care provider chosen by the parent, including those with sectarian activities. --Sec. 2007(d)(4)

Fails to guarantee parental choice by permitting states to prohibit use of certificates for religious child care. --Sec. 2012(a)(3)(C)

3. Budget Implications

\$20.5 billion of new spending or tax credits over five years.

\$28.9 billion of new spending or tax credits over five years.

4. Assistance to Parents of Young Children

A low-income family with three children with one child under age 1, would receive up to \$2500.

An identical family would receive up to \$2100.

HA3
ETC

5. Federal Categorical Grants

Business Incentive Grant
(\$125 million)

School-based Day Care Grant
(\$2.3 billion)

(All other new spending is
in tax credits to parents,
or Title XX block grants with
mandatory vouchers.)

Day Care Infrastructure Grant
(\$1.4 billion)

Child Care Standards Grant
(\$.4 billion)

Business Incentive Grant
(\$125 million)

6. Religious Preference in Employment

Clearly permits preference in
hiring based on religious
beliefs.

--Sec. 2007(d) (7)

Limits religious preference
in hiring relative to current
law.

--Sec. 2012(a) (3) (B)

7. Opportunity for Review by Members prior to voting

Introduced March 15.

Introduced March 27, at
5:30 p.m.

For further information on H.R. 4294 or H.R. 4381 please contact
Deborah Winters (x54201).