



March 8, 2010

Capitol Connection

CCR&Rs' weekly source for federal child care policy news.

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Census Outreach to Improve the Count for Kids Under 6

NACCRRA's Public Policy Symposium

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Congress:

U.S. House of Representatives

House Education and Labor Committee Hearing

On Tuesday, the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor held a hearing entitled "Improving Children's Health: Strengthening Federal Child Nutrition Programs," which focused on how Congress can strengthen federal nutrition and school meal programs through the upcoming child nutrition reauthorization. The hearing also discussed First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign to combat childhood obesity. To find more information on the hearing [click here](#).

House Education and Labor Committee Hearing

On March 3, 2010, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan testified before the House Education and Labor Committee to discuss President Obama's education agenda, including his budget proposal for FY 2011, and the President's proposal to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. To view Secretary Duncan's testimony [click here](#). To view Chairman Miller's testimony [click here](#). For more information on the hearing in general [click here](#).

House Floor

Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act

The House passed an amended version of the HIRE Act this week aimed at creating more jobs and providing economic stimulus in the United States. H.R. 2847, the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act includes four key provisions: (1) provides payroll tax relief for businesses that hire new workers that had previously been

unemployed. The bill also allows an additional \$1,000 income tax credit for every new employee retained for 52 weeks; (2) allows small businesses to write off more of the cost of their 2010 expenditures; (3) extends existing highway programs; and (4) allows state and local governments to borrow at lower costs to finance more infrastructure projects. The House amendment includes provisions to help offset the loss of revenue from the temporary tax relief provisions and requires stricter reporting on U.S.-held foreign assets in an effort to raise more revenue by detecting tax evasion. The House amendment also delays the application of worldwide interest allocation provisions which temporarily prevents U.S.-based multinational companies from changing the way their expenses are allocated between domestic and foreign source income. H.R. 2847 passed the House by a vote 217-201 on Thursday, March 4, 2010. The House amendment will now need to be passed by the Senate before going to the President for signature and enactment. For more information on the bill [click here](#).

Encouraging Individuals to Participate in the 2010 Census

H. Res. 1096, which encourages individuals across the United States to participate in the 2010 Census to ensure an accurate and complete count beginning April 1, 2010, and expressing support for designation of March 2010 as Census Awareness Month was approved by the House. The resolution (which only expresses the opinion of the House of Representatives and does not have the effect of law) passed by a vote of 409-1-1 on March 3, 2010.

Support of the National School Lunch Program

On Thursday, H. Res. 362, expressing the support of the U.S. House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of the National School Lunch Program passed the House by a vote of 403-13.

Keeping All Students Safe Act

The House passed legislation (H.R. 4247) that would establish minimum federal safety standards to prevent abusive restraint and seclusion in schools (public and private) across the country that receive federal funding. The bill also applies minimum standards to Native American schools funded by the Department of Interior and Head Start programs. After two years, states are required to submit a report to the U.S. Secretary of Education demonstrating that they have policies and procedures in place to meet these minimum standards. The bill passed the House by a vote of 262-153 on March 3, 2010. For more information on the bill [click here](#).

U.S. Senate

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Hearing

On Thursday, the Senate HELP committee held a hearing on combating childhood obesity. The hearing, "Childhood Obesity: Beginning the Dialogue on Reversing the Epidemic," is the first in a series that will focus on the rising epidemic of childhood obesity. In addition, the Surgeon General recently put forth some recommendations for addressing the epidemic and First Lady Michelle Obama announced a new "Let's Move" campaign aimed at curbing childhood obesity. To find information on the hearing [click](#)

[here](#). For information on the "Let's Move' initiative [click here](#). For information on the Surgeon General's recommendations [click here](#).

Take Action!

Can't Join Us for Symposium? Well, You Can Still Participate in Day on the Hill!

For those of you unable to attend this year's National Policy Symposium you can still help make a difference on March 11, 2010. It's been over 20 years since Congress has reauthorized the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and with the President's proposed \$1.6 billion in new funding for child care the time is now to ask Congress to reauthorize CCDBG with quality improvements. NACCRRA will set up a toll free 1-800 number for you to call the U.S. Capitol and we will also send you some brief talking points on what to say to the Speaker's office. Stay tuned as we will send out a reminder with all of the details in the next few days.

Call your Senator!

Please Ask Your Senator to Cosponsor Senator Burr's Background Check Legislation!

It is really important for us to show that there is strong support for comprehensive background checks for child care providers. To date, there is only one cosponsor (Senator Enzi, Wyoming) on Senator Burr's bill, S. 2903, the Child Care Protection Act. Please visit our Take Action Center today to send an email to your Senator asking him or her to cosponsor this critical bill to ensure children's safety by [clicking here](#).

VOTES NEEDED!

Help NACCRRA Win \$250,000 Grant from Pepsi!

NACCRRA is still in the running to win a \$250,000 Grant from Pepsi. Because of your votes, we came within the top 100 ideas (actually #31), and therefore, Pepsi is giving our idea another chance to win during the month of March. Our vote tally has been reset to zero and now we need to build our votes back up. We need your votes! Be sure to also tell your friends, neighbors, and anyone and everyone to vote as every vote counts! To cast your vote now and every day until March 31, 2010 [click here](#).

Miscellaneous

NACCRRA Partners with the Census Bureau to Reduce the Undercount Among Families with Children Age 6 and Younger

The Decennial Census is the most important data collection activity conducted by the Federal Government. The results of the census are used to establish funding formulas for a multitude of programs including many of the programs provided by Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. The census data is used as the basis for distributing more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year. Children, especially children under age six are more likely than any other group to be undercounted. You can help make a difference in your community. Post a web button of Dora, the Explorer, on your organization's web site or blog to help raise awareness about the importance of counting infants and young children in the 2010 Census. [Click here](#) for a link to the Census Bureau's Dora campaign and for instructions to add the button to your site.

NACCRRA has created a new web page with outreach resources about the census, which we hope you will use to alert families, providers, and others in your community about the importance of making sure that every child is counted! NACCRRA's page also includes some helpful background material related to the undercount. To visit NACCRRA's census page, [click here](#).

NACCRRA and Child Care in the News

You may be interested in an article that appeared in the *Washington Post* on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. The article, "Snowstorms throw delicate economics of child care off balance" examines how the stresses of the current economic situation and the record-breaking snow fall have negatively impacted child care in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Linda Smith, Executive Director, is quoted and NACCRRA's research is used in the article. To read the article [click here](#).

New NACCRRA Webinar Series

NACCRRA, in partnership with the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI), is offering a live Webinar series "Identifying and Building Upon the Competencies of Latino Children and Families" for CCR&R professionals who train and provide technical assistance to child care providers. For more information contact Krystal Jones at krystal.jones@naccrra.org or go to: <http://naccrra.smarthorizons.org/ccrr/>

Resource Sharing

ACF Releases National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-4)
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/natl_incid/index.html

Chapin Hall Briefing Paper on "Child Abuse Prevention: A Job Half Done"
<http://www.chapinhall.org/research/brief/child-abuse-prevention-job-half-done>

Child Care and Early Education Connections "Child Care Licensing and Regulation"

<http://www.researchconnections.org/files/childcare/keytopics/licensing.pdf>

NACCRRA tries to provide reports that keep the CCR&Rs abreast of the latest information. If you know of a report that should be shared, please email Jasmine Smith in NACCRRA's Policy Department. Jasmine can be reached at Jasmine.Smith@naccrra.org