



Capitol Connection

CCR&R's Weekly source for federal child care policy news



October 13, 2011

Congress

**U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Watch**

Take Action!

NACCRA Action Center Campaigns

Policy Resources You Can Use!

**Capitol Connection Guidebook 112th Congress: A Congressional
Resource Guidebook for CCR&R's**

Miscellaneous

**NACCRA's Webinar on Background Checks
HHS Information Memorandum
Children's Product Recalls
Resource Sharing**

Congress

**U.S. House of Representatives
Continuing Resolution for FY 2012**

On Tuesday, the House passed a continuing resolution (CR) that was agreed to by the Senate on September 26. The CR (H.R. 2608) provides funding for federal programs through November 18 to allow Congress to continue work on the FY 2012 appropriations bills. The CR provides \$1.043 trillion for continued funding in line with the budget caps contained in the Budget Control Act (Public Law 112-25) and represents a 1.5 percent cut from FY 2011 funding levels. The CR also provides \$2.65 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund for FY 2012. The CR passed 352-66. The President signed the bill the following day.

House Appropriations Bill for FY 2012

The House Appropriations Committee released a draft of its FY 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill on September 29. In total, the bill includes \$153 billion, which is \$4

billion below the fiscal year 2011 enacted level (-2.5%) and \$27.5 billion (-15.2%) below the President's FY 2012 request. The bill provides:

- \$2.2 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the same as for FY 2011;
- \$8.1 billion for Head Start, which is a \$540 million increase over FY 2011 and the same as the President's request;
- \$3.4 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a \$1.3 billion cut below last year's level, but \$822 million above the President's request; and
- \$704 million for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), a \$2 million increase over FY 2011 and \$334 million above the President's request.

The bill ends funding for the President's key education priorities Race to the Top and Early Learning Challenge Grant and does not include funding for implementation of the Affordable Care Act, President Obama's signature health care reform law. No markups of the bill have been scheduled. Information on the bill, including [legislative language](#) and a [summary](#), can be found on Committee's [website](#).

Appropriations Watch

The House and Senate continue to work on the regular appropriations bills for FY 2012 funding. To date, the [House Appropriations Committee](#) has passed 9 of 12 spending bills, with six passed by the full House. The [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) passed eight spending bills, including the FY 2012 Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations measure, but only one bill was approved by the full Senate. No funding bills have been signed into law. A CR is funding government programs until November 18, giving Congress more time to negotiate FY 2012 funding.

Take Action!

NACCRRA Action Center Campaigns:

Background Checks: [Click here](#) to send a letter to your Members of Congress alerting them to the GAO study that found sex offenders in child care programs and urging them to cosponsor background check legislation.

Congratulations to Alaska's thread for their hard work in securing Senator Begich (D-AK) as a cosponsor of S. 581, the Child Care Protection Act! Great job, Alaska!

CCDBG Reauthorization: [Click here](#) to send a letter to your Members of Congress urging them to reauthorize CCDBG in this Congress.

Child Care Funding: [Click here](#) to send a letter to your Members of Congress letting them know that parents need child care to work and that strengthening this economy will depend on working parents. Tough budget decisions will be made this fall but now is the time to urge them to maintain child care funding. The economy depends on it.

[NACCRRA Policy Resources You Can Use!](#)

- [Capitol Connection Guidebook 112th Congress: A Congressional Resource Manual CCR&R's](#) NACCRRA's primer for understanding the legislative process and becoming an effective advocate on Capitol Hill. This is a great resource to use as we build momentum in our advocacy efforts the fall.

Miscellaneous

NACCRRA Webinar on Background Checks

On October 4, NACCRRA held a webinar on recent updates regarding background checks for child care providers and how CCR&Rs can play a role. The webinar focused on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Information Memorandum (see below) issued last month that encourages all child care providers to have a comprehensive background check. The webinar also discussed the states of Florida and California's success with LiveScan for conducting background checks. Information from the webinar, including the Power Point, can be found on NACCRRA's [website](#).

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Information Memorandum

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released an [Information Memorandum](#) recommending all child care providers undergo a comprehensive background check. The Information Memorandum strongly encourages all child care providers serving children receiving subsidies through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) program, regardless of whether they are required to be licensed, to have a comprehensive background check. In addition, any other persons who have regular unsupervised access to children in these settings should be required to undergo comprehensive criminal background checks. The Information Memorandum provides the necessary guidance for how background checks are conducted, when and how often, and which criminal offenses and behaviors disqualify a provider. The [Information Memorandum](#) can be found on NACCRRA's [website](#).

Toy Workshop Recalled

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), along with [Little Tikes](#) announced a voluntary recall of the [Little Tikes Workshop and Tool Sets](#). The recall involves toy nails sold as part of 11 additional models of Little Tikes Workshop and Tool Sets. The toy nails are oversized,

plastic, and pose a choking hazard. They are red or blue and have a large round nail head, below the nail head is a plastic ridge, slightly smaller than the nail head. Consumers should immediately take the toys away from young children and contact [Little Tikes](#) for free replacement toy nails. Contact [Little Tikes](#) at 800-321-0183 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday, or visit their [website](#).

Wooden Table Toys Recalled

The CPSC, along with [Battat Inc.](#), also announced a voluntary recall of the [Battat Musical Wooden Table Toys](#). The table has a green painted surface and colorful instruments affixed to the top. Instruments on the table include a xylophone, cymbal, drum and two drumsticks. Small pegs on the xylophone can become loose and detach, posing a choking hazard to young children. Consumers should immediately take the recalled toys away from children and contact [Battat](#) to receive a free replacement product. Contact Battat at 800-247-6144 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday, or visit their [website](#).

Resource Sharing

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Issue Brief: [“Child Maltreatment Prevention: Past, Present and Future”](#)

New America Foundation, Early Ed Blog: [“Do Early Childhood Educators Need a Bachelor’s Degree?”](#)

New America Foundation, Early Ed Blog: [“Early Learning Legislation in the 112th Congress”](#)

New America Foundation, Early Ed Blog: [“SpongeBob for 4-Year-Olds? A Sign of America’s Confusion”](#)

NACCRRA tries to provide reports that keep 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 at Jasmine.Smith@naccrra.org