

*Murray
Abraham*

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SENATOR OLYMPIA J. SNOWE

AMENDMENT

**SENSE OF THE SENATE ON INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

- (a) FINDINGS-- The Senate finds that--
- (1) In 1998, 33.2 percent of women in the labor force have children under 14.
 - (2) In 1998, 65.2 percent of women with children younger than age 6, and 78.4 percent of women with children ages 6-17 were in the labor force, and 41.6 percent of women with children younger than 3 were employed full-time.
 - (3) 1.92 million couples both working and with children under 18 had family incomes of under \$30,000 (10.3 percent).
 - (4) In 1998, 11.7 million children out of 21.3 million (55.1 percent) under the age of 5 have employed mothers. 18.4 percent of children under 6 are cared for by their fathers at home. Another 5.5 percent (562,000) are looked after by their mother either at home or away from home. In other words, less than a quarter (23.9 percent) of these children are taken care of by one parent.
 - (5) a 1997 General Accounting Office study found that the increased work participation requirement of the welfare reform law will cause the need for child care to exceed the known supply;
 - (6) a 1995 study by the Urban Institute of child care prices in 6 cities found that the average cost of care for a 2-year-old in a child care center ranged from \$3,100 to \$8,100.

- (7) for an entry-level worker, the family's child care costs at the average price of care for an infant in a child care center would be at least 50 percent of family income in 5 of the 6 cities examined;
- (8) a large number of low- and middle-income families sacrifice a second full-time income so that a parent may be at home with the child;
- (9) the average income of 2-parent families with a single income (a family with children, wife does not work) is \$13,566 less than the average income of 2-parent families with 2 incomes;
- (10) a recent National Institute for Child Health and Development study found that the greatest factor in the development of a young child is 'what is happening at home and in families'; and
- (11) increased tax relief directed at making child care more affordable, and increased funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, would take significant steps toward bringing quality child care within the reach of many parents, and would increase the options available to parents in deciding how best to care for their children.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE- It is the sense of the Senate that the levels in this resolution and legislation enacted pursuant to this resolution assume-

- (1) that tax relief should be directed to parents who are struggling to afford quality childcare, including those who wish to stay home to care for a child, and should be included in any tax cut package; and
- (2) a total of \$4.567 billion in funding for the CCDBG in FY2001

VOTE ON: Snow

DATE: _____

YEA

Accepted w/o objection

NAY

GRASSLEY

NICKLES

GRAMM

BOND

GORTON

GREGG

MS SNOWE

ABRAHAM

FRIST

GRAMS

SMITH

LAUTENBERG

HOLLINGS

CONRAD

SARBANES

Mrs BOXER

Mrs MURRAY

WYDEN

FEINGOLD

JOHNSON

DURBIN

CHAIRMAN