

**Coburn #2829 -- To eliminate duplication, fragmentation, and overlap within the 45 Federal “early learning and child care” programs within 8 Departments.**

In 2012, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found the Federal government has 45 programs and 5 tax expenditures for “early learning and child care” costing over \$16 billion a year. The largest early learning and child care program, Head Start, spent \$7.2 billion in FY 2010.

The 45 programs fall under the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Interior, Justice, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, the General Services Administration, and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

GAO reported, “Fragmentation and program overlap can create an environment in which programs may not serve children and families as efficiently and effectively as possible,” as well as adding administrative costs. In addition “it may be possible for some families to receive benefits through both tax provisions and federal early learning and child care programs in a particular year.”<sup>1</sup>

**This amendment eliminates duplicative early learning and child care programs, consolidates programs targeting similar populations, requires the Secretaries to report on program outcomes, and ensures federal programs intended for other purposes are not spending taxpayer dollars to duplicate the efforts of early learning and child care programs.**

This amendment eliminates the following program:

- (1) Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program: this program provides grants to higher education institutions to support child care services. \$15 million was appropriated for this program in fiscal year (FY) 2013, yet it duplicates the purpose of numerous early learning and child care programs, including CCDBG.

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<sup>1</sup> GAO-12-342SP: 2012 Annual Report: Opportunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Revenue, Government Accountability Office, February 2012, <http://www.gao.gov/assets/590/588818.pdf>.

The amendment eliminates the authorization for the following programs that are not currently funded:

- (1) Even Start
- (2) Early Reading First
- (3) Early Childhood Educator Professional Development
- (4) Early Learning Fund/Early learning opportunities act program

The amendment requires the Secretaries to report on reforms Congress could legislate to consolidate the following programs into one grant program within the Department of Education serving Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians:

- (1) Alaska native educational programs
- (2) Indian education-grants to local educational agencies
- (3) Indian child and family education
- (4) Indian education-special programs for Indian children
- (5) Native Hawaiian education
- (6) Indian Education- assistance to schools

The amendment requires the secretaries of each federal department or agency operating a child care and early learning program, or a program that uses funds for such purposes, to conduct an evaluation on program effectiveness. Specifically, the Secretary must report on the number of number of children served by each program. In GAO's 2012 duplication report, it was reported, "Education and HHS officials were unable to provide GAO with information on the number of children served for several programs."<sup>2</sup>

Lastly, the amendment ensures federal programs intended for other purposes are not spending taxpayer to duplicate the efforts of early learning and child care programs. GAO found several federal programs may provide funding for early learning and child care, even though it is not their primary purpose. This amendment prohibits the following programs, which were included in GAO's

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<sup>2</sup> GAO-12-342SP: 2012 Annual Report: Opportunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Revenue, Government Accountability Office, February 2012, <http://www.gao.gov/assets/590/588818.pdf>.

analysis of programs spending money on early learning and child care, from spending funding for those purposes:

- (1) Appalachian Area Development
- (2) Reduction and Prevention of Children's Exposure to Violence (Safe Start)
- (3) Violence Against Women Office Children and Youth Exposed to Violence
- (4) Transitional Housing Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault
- (5) National Farmworker Jobs Program
- (6) Native American Employment and Training
- (7) Workforce Investment Act Adult Program
- (8) Workforce Investment Act Dislocated Worker Formula Grants

This provision ensures taxpayer dollars are being spent where Congress intended. Eligible individuals should receive early learning and child care services through the programs whose primary purpose is supporting early learning and child care—such as CCDBG, Head Start, or grants to Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. The programs whose primary purpose is to provide early learning and child care services are required by this amendment to report on outcomes, and will be accountable for providing high quality child care and early learning opportunities. Early learning and child care services through other federal programs may not meet certain educational or safety standards required by early learning and child care programs. Prohibiting these programs from using funds for early learning and child care will prevent taxpayer money from being used to support sub-standard child care.