

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 180

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Benson and Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie

SYNOPSIS

Urges passage and enactment of federal “Child Care Is Essential Act.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/24/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** supporting the passage and enactment
2 of S.3874/H.R.7027, the federal “Child Care Is Essential Act.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Child care providers are at the forefront of the nation’s
5 response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic,
6 yet financially, the child care industry has been one of the most
7 affected industries during the pandemic; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Approximately half of the country’s child care centers
9 have stayed open throughout this crisis to serve children of essential
10 workers who serve their communities; and
11 **WHEREAS**, However, faced with reduced enrollment and steep drops
12 in revenue, child care providers struggle to remain viable and
13 implement the necessary health and safety precautions to protect
14 children and child care workers during the pandemic; and
15 **WHEREAS**, About half of child care providers throughout the country
16 have stopped collecting revenue as a result of the COVID-19
17 pandemic, and many providers face the possibility of permanent
18 closure; and
19 **WHEREAS**, According to an analysis from the Center for American
20 Progress, the COVID-19 pandemic could lead to a permanent loss
21 of nearly 4.5 million child care slots nationwide, leaving millions of
22 families without the child care they need to return to work; and
23 **WHEREAS**, As communities across the country move toward
24 reopening, and parents return to work, it is more important than
25 ever to ensure that child care providers receive federal support in
26 order to continue to serve their communities by providing child care
27 services in a safe and healthy manner; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Child care providers need financial assistance to purchase
29 necessary cleaning supplies, reduce group sizes, adjust staffing
30 levels, and modify classroom space and materials to lower the risk
31 of children and child care staff of becoming infected with COVID-
32 19; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Initial estimates suggest that modifications necessary to
34 implement social distancing and sanitization requirements to
35 respond to COVID-19 may increase child care providers’ costs by
36 thirty percent; and
37 **WHEREAS**, The federal “Child Care Is Essential Act,” S.3874,
38 sponsored by Senators Murray (D-WA), Smith (D-MN), Warren
39 (D-MA), Casey (D-PA), and Gillibrand (D-NY), and H.R.7027,
40 sponsored by Representative DeLauro (D-CT), would provide
41 funding for grants to support child care providers in order to
42 stabilize the child care industry; and
43 **WHEREAS**, Specifically, the legislation establishes the Child Care
44 Stabilization Fund within the U.S. Department of Health and
45 Human Services’ Child Care and Development Block Grant
46 (CCDBG) program, and appropriates \$50 billion to the fund for
47 grants to child care providers during and after the COVID-19 public
48 health emergency; and

1 **WHEREAS**, The grants would be available to licensed child care
2 centers, home-based child care providers, and family day care
3 homes that were temporarily closed due to the COVID-19
4 pandemic or are currently open as a result of a state’s reopening
5 plan; and

6 **WHEREAS**, The amount of the grants would be based on the centers’,
7 providers’, or homes’ pre pandemic operating costs adjusted for the
8 increased costs of providing child care as a result of the pandemic,
9 regardless of whether the centers, providers, or homes had
10 previously received funding through the CCDB program; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The stabilization grants would be used for: personnel
12 costs, including premium pay, employee benefits, and employee
13 salaries; sanitization and cleaning; the purchase of personal
14 protective and other necessary equipment; training and professional
15 development related to health and safety practices; fixed costs, such
16 as mortgage, rent, utilities, facility maintenance, and insurance;
17 mental health supports for children and employees; modifications to
18 child care programs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
19 other goods and services necessary to maintain or resume operation
20 of a child care program or to maintain the financial viability of
21 child care centers, home-based care providers, or family day care
22 homes; and

23 **WHEREAS**, As a condition of receiving the grants, licensed child care
24 centers, home-based child care providers, and family day care
25 homes would be required to continue to employ and pay their staff,
26 and to provide families with relief from copayments and tuition for
27 the duration of the COVID-19 public emergency; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Child care centers, home-based child care providers, and
29 family day care homes that receive the stabilization grants and
30 reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic would further be required
31 to meet health and safety guidance from state and local authorities
32 and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Grant recipients that remain closed would be required to
34 provide assurances that the child care provider would reopen once
35 the provider is able to implement all health and safety requirements;
36 and

37 **WHEREAS**, The passage and enactment of the federal “Child Care Is
38 Essential Act” is necessary to offset the increased costs of
39 sanitization and other operational modifications needed as a result
40 of the COVID-19 pandemic, the purchase of personal protective
41 equipment, and the training and professional development of staff
42 related to health and safety practices that child care centers, home-
43 based child care providers, and family day care homes must bear in
44 order to reopen and provide safe, affordable, and high quality child
45 care both during and after the pandemic; now, therefore,

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47 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
48 *Jersey:*

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25 According to an analysis from the Center for American Progress,
26 the COVID-19 pandemic could lead to a permanent loss of nearly
27 4.5 million child care slots nationwide, leaving millions of families
28 without the child care they need to return to work.

Therefore, this resolution urges the passage and enactment of the federal “Child Care Is Essential Act,” S.3874/ H.R.7027, which is necessary to offset the increased costs of sanitization and other operational modifications, the purchase of personal protective equipment, and staff training and professional development related to health and safety practices that child care centers, home-based child care providers, and family day care homes incur in order to reopen and provide safe, affordable, and high quality child care both during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.