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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To support infrastructure investment in small and rural child care facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PAPPAS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To support infrastructure investment in small and rural child
care facilities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Child Care Ac-
5 cess Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BUILDING UP INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LOCAL CHILD**
7 **CARE GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) GRANT AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of
9 Health and Human Services is authorized to make grants

1 to State and local child care facilities that serve jurisdic-
2 tions with fewer than 50,000 residents for use in accord-
3 ance with subsection (b).

4 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available to a
6 State or local child care facility under this section
7 shall be used for projects to modify, upgrade, or con-
8 struct a child care facility, which projects shall have
9 a substantial nexus to—

10 (A) the improvement of the provision of
11 child care;

12 (B) the training and development of child
13 care providers;

14 (C) the recruitment and retention of child
15 care providers; or

16 (D) community engagement.

17 (2) CLARIFICATION.—No portion of funds made
18 available under this section for a project to modify,
19 upgrade, or construct a child care facility may be
20 used for any part of the facility that does not have
21 a substantial nexus to subparagraphs (A) through
22 (D).

23 (c) APPLICATION.—The head of a child care facility
24 seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
25 retary of Health and Human Services an application at

1 such time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
2 tion as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may
3 reasonably require, including an estimate of the cost of
4 the project for which the grant will be used, as well as
5 a demonstration of financial need for the grant.

6 (d) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
7 HUMAN SERVICES.—

8 (1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 120 days after
9 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
10 of Health and Human Services shall issue guidance
11 to carry out the grant program under this section.

12 (2) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—The
13 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall dis-
14 tribute information about the grant program under
15 this section to eligible child care facilities.

16 (3) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding
17 grants under this section, the Secretary of Health
18 and Human Services shall ensure, to the extent
19 practicable, an equitable geographic distribution
20 among the regions of the United States.

21 (4) REPORT.—On the date that is 2 years after
22 the date of enactment of this section, and biannually
23 thereafter until the date that is 6 years after the
24 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of
25 Health and Human Services shall submit to Con-

1 gress and make publicly available a report on the
2 grant program administered under this section,
3 which shall include—

4 (A) updates on building progress for
5 projects funded by grants awarded under this
6 section, including information on whether
7 projects are complete or experiencing delays;

8 (B) impacts of the project on the commu-
9 nity; and

10 (C) existing project needs.

11 (e) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant awarded under this
12 section may not exceed \$4,000,000.

13 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health
15 and Human Services to carry out this section
16 \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029.

17 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

18 The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
19 periodically conduct and publish a study of the met and
20 unmet construction and renovation needs of a national
21 sample of child care facilities.