

S 1380

Strong Start for America's Children Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: May 19, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (May 19, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1380>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]

Party: Democratic • **State:** WA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (24 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		May 19, 2015
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 19, 2015
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		May 19, 2015
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		May 19, 2015
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		May 19, 2015
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 19, 2015
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		May 19, 2015
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 19, 2015
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		May 19, 2015
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 19, 2015
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		May 19, 2015
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		May 19, 2015
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		May 19, 2015
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		May 19, 2015
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		May 19, 2015
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 19, 2015
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		May 19, 2015
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		May 19, 2015
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		May 19, 2015
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		May 19, 2015
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		May 19, 2015
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 1, 2015
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jun 9, 2015
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Jul 21, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 19, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2411	Related bill	Nov 16, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

Strong Start for America's Children Act of 2015

This bill directs the Department of Education (ED) to allot matching grants to states and, through them, subgrants to local educational agencies, childhood education program providers, or consortia of those entities to implement high-quality prekindergarten programs for children from low-income families.

Grants are allotted to states based on each state's proportion of children who are age four and who are from families with incomes at or below 200% of the poverty level.

"High-quality prekindergarten programs" are those that serve children three or four years of age and meet criteria concerning: class size; learning environments; teacher qualifications, salaries, and professional development; program monitoring; and accessibility to comprehensive health and support services.

States may apply to use up to 15% of their grant for subgrants to high-quality early childhood education and care programs for infants and toddlers whose family income is at or below 200% of the poverty level.

ED and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shall develop a process to: (1) provide Head Start program services to children younger than age four in states or regions that already provide four-year-olds whose family income is at or below 200% of the poverty level with sustained access to high-quality prekindergarten programs, or (2) convert programs to serve infants and toddlers.

ED shall award competitive matching grants to states to increase their capacity to offer high-quality prekindergarten programs. States must provide assurances that they will use their grant to become eligible, within three years of receiving the grant, for this Act's grants for high-quality prekindergarten programs.

The bill amends the Head Start Act to direct HHS to make grants to Early Head Start agencies to partner with center-based or family child care providers, particularly those that receive support under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, to assist them in meeting program performance standards. Such partnerships may serve children through age three.

The bill reauthorizes the programs providing: (1) preschool grants for special education and related services, and (2) early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

The bill expresses the sense of the Senate concerning the value of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program.

Actions Timeline

- **May 19, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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