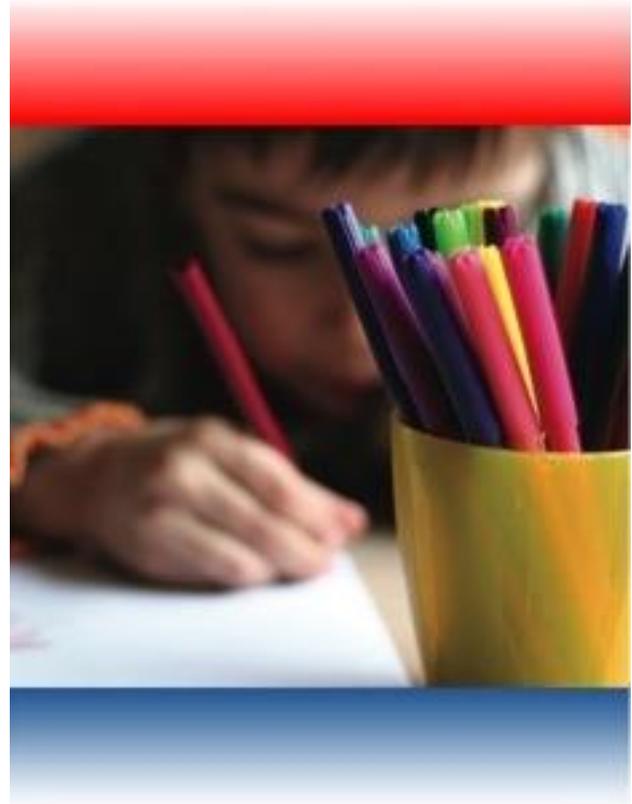# The Strong Start for America's Children Act of 2013

On November 13th, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and Representative George Miller (D-CA), Ranking Member of the House Education and Workforce Committee, introduced the Strong Start for America's Children Act of 2013. After a proposal from President Barack Obama with the release of his FY2014 Budget, Senator Harkin and Congressman Miller wrote legislation compiled of many of the same pieces.

Preschool For All

Would establish a new federal-state partnership to provide access to quality pre-kindergarten programs for all low-income and moderate-income children to enhance school readiness. Additionally, the bill would make available funds for competitive grants to help states improve the quality of their current prekindergarten programs or to establish prekindergarten programs if they do not currently support any.

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships

Would provide competitive grants to Early Head Start programs to develop partnerships with child care programs to help them improve the quality of the program and to help them meet Early Head Start performance standards. The grants would help child care centers and family child care homes improve the quality of coordinated, comprehensive services for infants and toddlers and children through age 3, specifically to support enhanced training and help programs blend funding to create comprehensive, full-day services for families and children.

Child Care

Would establish a reserve fund of $100 million dedicated for the improvement of child care training, licensing, compensation, and other quality standards. Additionally, the bill would increase the eligibility period for redetermination for at least a year for families receiving assistance.

Home Visiting

Expresses a *Sense of the Congress* (a majority opinion that is not law and not enforceable) that Congress should continue to fund evidence-based, voluntary home visitation programs under MIECHV.