

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 5
OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK

At the end of the bill, add the following new title:

1 TITLE IX—EARLY CHILDHOOD
2 EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL
3 IMPROVEMENT

4 SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.

5 This title may be cited as the “Early Childhood Edu-
6 cation Professional Improvement Act of 2015”.

7 SEC. 902. PURPOSE.

8 The purpose of this title is to provide assistance to
9 States to improve the knowledge, credentials, compensa-
10 tion, and professional development of early childhood edu-
11 cators working with children in early childhood education
12 programs.

13 SEC. 903. DEFINITIONS.

14 In this title:

15 (1) The term “early childhood education pro-
16 gram” means a Head Start Program carried out
17 under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.),
18 a State-funded prekindergarten program, a licensed

1 child care serving prekindergarten children, and spe-
2 cial education preschool.

3 (2) The term “institution of higher education”
4 has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of
5 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 1001(a)).

7 **SEC. 904. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

8 The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the
9 Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized
10 to award grants to States to implement and administer
11 the activities described in section 906.

12 **SEC. 905. APPLICATIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each State desiring a grant under
14 this title shall submit an application to the Secretary of
15 Education at such time, in such manner, and accompanied
16 by such information as the Secretary may reasonably re-
17 quire.

18 (b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under
19 subsection (a) shall include a description of the State’s
20 comprehensive early childhood professional development
21 system, including the following:

22 (1) A description of how the State’s system was
23 developed in collaboration with the State Advisory
24 Council on Early Childhood Education and Care
25 designated or established under section 642B of the

1 Head Start Act, the State agency responsible for ad-
2 ministering childcare, the State Head Start collabo-
3 ration director, the State educational agency, insti-
4 tutions of higher education, organizations that rep-
5 resent early childhood educators, and credible early
6 childhood education professional organizations.

7 (2) A designation of a State agency to admin-
8 ister the grant program.

9 (3) A description of how the State's system pro-
10 vides—

11 (A) an oversight structure for the system;

12 (B) professional standards and com-
13 petencies;

14 (C) a career lattice;

15 (D) coordination with State higher edu-
16 cation agencies, higher education accrediting
17 bodies, and accredited two- and four-year insti-
18 tutions of higher education;

19 (E) encouragement of articulation agree-
20 ments between two- and four-year institutions
21 of higher education and credit-bearing opportu-
22 nities and articulation agreements that recog-
23 nize prior learning and expertise;

24 (F) more accessible higher education for
25 working learners through offering of college

1 courses at accessible time and locations, with
2 particular attention to rural areas;

3 (G) support to adult learners who are dual
4 language learners, or come from low-income or
5 minority communities;

6 (H) use of workforce data to assess the
7 State's workforce needs; and

8 (I) its financing over time.

9 **SEC. 906. STATE USE OF FUNDS.**

10 A State that receives a grant under this title shall
11 ensure that grant funds are used to carry out the fol-
12 lowing:

13 (1) To provide scholarships to cover the costs of
14 tuition, fees, materials, transportation, paid sub-
15 stitutes, and release time for preschool teachers em-
16 ployed in an early childhood education program to
17 pursue a bachelor's degree in early childhood edu-
18 cation or a closely related field.

19 (2) To support preschool teachers employed in
20 an early childhood education program, and who have
21 obtained a bachelor's degree in a field other than
22 early childhood education or a closely related field,
23 to attain a credential, licensure, or endorsement that
24 demonstrates competence in early childhood edu-
25 cation.

1 (3) To increase compensation for teachers who
2 are enrolled and making progress toward a degree in
3 early childhood education and to provide parity of
4 compensation upon completion of such degree and
5 retention in the early childhood education program.

6 (4) To provide ongoing professional develop-
7 ment opportunities to preschool teachers and teacher
8 assistants employed in an early childhood education
9 program that address—

10 (A) all areas of child development and
11 learning (cognitive, social, emotional, and phys-
12 ical);

13 (B) teacher-child interaction;

14 (C) family engagement; and

15 (D) cultural competence for working with
16 a diversity of children (including children with
17 special needs and dual language learners) and
18 families.

19 **SEC. 907. SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**

20 Grant funds provided under this title shall supple-
21 ment, and not supplant, other Federal, State, and local
22 funds that are available for early childhood educator prep-
23 aration and professional development.

1 **SEC. 908. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**

2 A State that receives funds under this title for a fiscal
3 year shall maintain the fiscal effort provided by the State
4 for the activities supported by the funds under this title
5 at a level equal to or greater than the level of such fiscal
6 effort for the preceding fiscal year.

7 **SEC. 909. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
9 this title such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years
10 2016 through 2021.

