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Strong Start for America's Children Act Would Expand Learning Opportunities for Children

Low-wage parents would gain access to quality early education for their children

WASHINGTON, DC – “The Strong Start for America’s Children Act,” sponsored by Sen. Tom Harkin and Rep. George Miller and others, will give more children access to the early learning opportunities they need to succeed in life as well as give more low-wage parents the security of knowing their children are receiving high quality care and education.

The act invests in early childhood programs serving children from birth to five and gives legislative life to President Obama’s strong commitment to expanding early education.

“This is an important first step that would help children succeed in school and life,” said SEIU President Mary Kay Henry. “At a time when across-the-board sequester cuts are hurting children and families, it’s encouraging to see Sen. Harkin and Rep. Miller leading us toward greater investment.

“Access to quality early learning and care is the hope of all parents, especially those struggling to provide for their families,” Henry added.

Working parents, especially those earning low wages, face daunting challenges in the new just-in-time scheduled economy. Among them is finding quality early learning programs they can afford and flexible child care beyond the normal pre-school day.

SEIU members across the United States are working to raise skills and wages of child care workers and providers—and the parents of the children they teach—so that the next generation will start school ready to succeed and come home to parents who are economically secure.

SEIU looks forward to working with the bill’s sponsors to ensure that all children start elementary school with the foundation they need to succeed.

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