



Santa Clara County
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The Democratic Party: Partnering with America's Working Families

The Bush Administration Abandons Commitment to Working Families' Childcare

"I'll be a President who will make childcare a priority,
and early childhood education a national way of life."

[John Kerry](#)
[Democratic Presidential Nominee](#)

Bush & Republicans Increase Work Requirements for Welfare Parents, Oppose Childcare Funding

The Republicans are increasing the number of hours single parents -- primarily mothers -- must work to qualify for the national Welfare-to-Work program. Republicans are simultaneously pushing single mothers to work more hours -- thus requiring them to be away from their children -- and diverting tax dollars to pilot a federal government program to encourage them...to marry.

With bi-partisan support, Democratic Senator Christopher Dodd (CT) co-sponsored a bill for an additional \$600 billion to pay for childcare. More than 600,000 eligible children were on waiting lists for such care. States can use this federal money to subsidize childcare for welfare recipients and for people who have left welfare for low-wage jobs

George W. Bush opposes this additional childcare funding for America's working families.

"The resources our country provides will help to hire and train childcare workers (in Uganda)..."

[George W. Bush](#)
July 2003
Entebbe, Uganda

BUSH ABANDONS AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES NEEDING CHILD CARE

Bush Republicans Increase Work Requirement For Singles Mothers On Welfare
Republican Economy & Budget Cuts: States Gutting Childcare Subsidies
Bush Opposes Childcare Funding Assistance: Just Wants Moms To Work More
Rather Than Address Childcare Needs, Republicans Divert \$200 Million,
Uncle Sam = Marriage Broker

DEMOCRATS PROVIDE FOR WORKING FAMILIES CHILD CARE NEEDS

Democrats Lead Senate To Add \$6 billion To Childcare Programs
California Would Get \$1 Billion In New Childcare Funding.
Republican Chair of Senate Finance Committee: Childcare Investment Tremendously Good

KERRY CARES ABOUT QUALITY CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Kerry Applies Lessons From Military Example to Improve Childcare
Kerry's Prosecutor Expertise: Criminal Background Checks On Childcare Workers

"I'll create an 'Excellence in Early Care and Education' fund that will make sure your children will receive quality care from highly-trained professionals."

[Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry](#)

BUSH ABANDONS AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES NEEDING CHILD CARE

Bush Republicans Increase Work Requirement For Singles Mothers On Welfare

"The House approved a welfare bill last year to require more single mothers to work. . . ." ["Senate Welfare Bill Raises Child Care Funds," [Associated Press/Boston Globe](#), 3/31/2004]

Republican Economy & Budget Cuts: States Gutting Childcare Subsidies

"The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) report shows that funding cuts have affected child care assistance in a variety of ways: Many more families have been put on waiting lists; fewer families are eligible for assistance because income eligibility limits have been lowered; parent co-pays have increased; and provider reimbursements have been reduced.

"States have also eliminated or reduced funding for quality initiatives such as professional development and training for providers; improvements in infant and toddler care, as well as improvements in pre-kindergarten programs, and school-age programs. These steps have severely limited low-income working families' access to high quality, affordable child care and early education. The report finds that in 2003:

- 550,000 children were on waiting lists in 23 states;
- Sixteen states reduced eligibility levels so that fewer children in need qualify for assistance;
- Nine states cut funding for after-school care; and
- Nine states scaled back prekindergarten initiatives that improve access to early learning."

["Low-Income Families' Access To Child Care Shrinks As States Cut Child Care Assistance Programs," [Children's Defense Fund Press Release](#), March 15, 2004]

Bush Opposes Childcare Funding Assistance: Just Wants Moms To Work More

"The White House told Congress that it strongly opposed the [childcare funding] increase." ["Defying Bush, Senate Increases Child Care Funds for the Poor" [New York Times](#) March 31, 2004]

"... [T]he Bush administration opposes the [childcare funding increase] provision and Republicans did not include it in the version of the legislation that passed the House last year." ["Senate Welfare Bill Raises Child Care Funds," [Associated Press](#), 3/31/2004]

Rather Than Address Childcare Needs, Republicans Divert \$200 Million, Uncle Sam = Marriage Broker

"The House approved a welfare bill last year. . . to provide hundreds of millions of dollars to promote marriage." ["Senate Welfare Bill Raises Child Care Funds," [Associated Press/Boston Globe](#), 3/31/2004]

"We stand for welfare reforms that require work and strengthen marriage. . . ."

[George Bush](#)

July 2004

DEMOCRATS PROVIDE FOR WORKING FAMILIES CHILDCARE NEEDS

Democrats Lead Senate To Add \$6 Billion To Childcare Programs

“Senate voted . . . 78 to 20 [to] support for a proposal to add \$6 billion to child care programs over the next five years, on top of a \$1 billion increase that was already included in a sweeping welfare bill. The federal government now earmarks \$4.8 billion a year for such child care assistance. [“Defying Bush, Senate Increases Child Care Funds for the Poor” [New York Times](#), March 31, 2004]

Senate Democrats Know What It Takes To Raise America’s Children

“Senator Dodd said that day care for a child could cost \$4,000 to \$10,000 a year and that more than 600,000 eligible children were on waiting lists for such care. States can use the federal money to subsidize child care for welfare recipients and for people who have left welfare for low-wage jobs.” [“Defying Bush, Senate Increases Child Care Funds For The Poor,” [New York Times](#), March 31, 2004]

Democrats Help 450,000 Of America’s Children Keep Childcare Services

“The provision would more than double the amount of money given to states in the form of federal block grants. Its authors, Senators Olympia Snowe, a Maine Republican, and Christopher Dodd, a Connecticut Democrat, said that without the extra money, up to 450,000 children could lose child care. That could force thousands of low-income parents to give up their jobs, the sponsors said.” [“Senate Welfare Bill Raises Child Care Funds,” [Associated Press](#), 3/31/2004]

California Would Get \$1 Billion In New Childcare Funding

“[A]most \$1 billion . . . would go to California.” [“Child Care Held Hostage,” [Los Angeles Times](#), April 26, 2004]

Republican Chair of Senate Finance Committee Agrees With Democrats: Childcare Investment Tremendously Good

“Senator Charles E. Grassley, the Iowa Republican who is chairman of the Finance Committee, also voted to provide extra money for child care. ‘You invest a little bit of taxpayers’ money, or even a lot of taxpayers’ money in this case, but you get tremendous good for it,’ he said.” [“Defying Bush, Senate Increases Child Care Funds for the Poor,” [New York Times](#), March 31, 2004]

KERRY CARES ABOUT QUALITY CHILDCARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Kerry Launches Quality Childcare Initiative

High-quality early care and education programs are critical to success in school, the ability to have good relationships, and healthy development. Sixty-four percent of children in New Hampshire under the age of six are cared for by someone other than their parent, but unfortunately, care often costs more than many parents can afford and sometimes provides lower-quality services than they want for their children. John Kerry has fought for increases in Head Start, child care and early education and will continue to do so as President. He will also launch a major initiative to increase the quality of child care.

Presumptive Democratic Nominee John Kerry
[Quality Care So Children Start School Ready To Learn](#)

Kerry Applies Lessons From Military Example to Improve Childcare

Thirteen years ago, the United State's military's childcare system was in such terrible shape that Congress was forced to mandate improvements. The problems the military faced were similar to the country's childcare system today: poor quality care; a lack of standards on key issues such as staff-teacher ratio; high staff turnover due to low salaries and poor working conditions; long waiting lists for available slots, and unaffordable parent fees. John Kerry will provide states and communities with funding to implement the high quality standards found in the military's childcare system which improve workforce quality, including:

- Comprehensive, Uniform Standards to Improve Quality. Today, in New Hampshire a caregiver can care for as many as twelve four-year olds at one time. Kerry will fund states and communities to implement high-quality standards such as those found in the military childcare system: health and safety, staff/child ratios, staff education and training, and developmentally appropriate curriculum. Quality care will be enforced through inspections and well-publicized sanctions.
- Workforce Education and Training and Compensation to Reward High Quality Providers. The childcare workforce needs more education and training, better compensation, and lower turnover rates that undermine quality of care. A childcare worker in New Hampshire averages \$17,240/year salary. Thirty states do not require childcare center teachers to have child development training, even though education is a key quality indicator. Kerry will fund states to provide salary bonuses to caregivers to help pay for high quality training, and for caregivers who make a commitment to stay with the program for a period of time.

Democratic Presidential Nominee John Kerry
[Quality Care So Children Start School Ready To Learn](#)

Kerry's Prosecutor Expertise: Criminal Background Checks on Childcare Workers

Improving Quality and Safety by Requiring Criminal Background Checks. Parents should have the peace of mind to know that the workers they entrust their children with are highly qualified and do not have a criminal record.

Democratic Presidential Nominee John Kerry
[Quality Care So Children Start School Ready To Learn](#)

Read about John Kerry's Plan to Keep Every Kid Safe and Ready to Learn.
See <http://www.johnkerry.com/issues/children/safeandready.html>.

Also see John Kerry's Plan for Quality Care So Children Start School Ready to Learn.
See http://www.johnkerry.com/issues/children/quality_care.html.

The Democratic Party:
Partnering with America's Working Families

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