

1 S./H.R. ____

2
3 To amend the Head Start Act to establish Tribal certification standards for Indian Head Start
4 programs, and for other purposes.

5
6 _____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee
7 on _____
8

9 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in
10 Congress assembled,

11 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

12 This Act may be cited as the “Tribal Certification Standards for Head Start Educators Act”.

13 SEC. 2. EXCLUSION FROM NATIONWIDE HEAD START 14 TEACHER CREDENTIALING CALCULATION.

15 Section 648A(a)(2)(A) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9843a(a)(2)(A)) is amended by
16 inserting “(other than Indian Head Start programs)” after “center-based programs”.

17 SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE HEAD START ACT.

18 Section 648A(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9843a(a)) is amended—

19 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (7) as paragraphs (5) through (8); and

20 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

21 “(4) TRIBAL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS FOR INDIAN HEAD START PROGRAMS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, including
23 paragraphs (3) and (5), or of section 645A(h), Indian Head Start agencies (including
24 Indian Early Head Start agencies), shall have the authority to establish and implement
25 their own certification, credentialing, and qualification standards for teaching and
26 support staff, if such standards—

27 “(i) are culturally relevant and tailored to meet the unique needs of the children
28 and families served;

29 “(ii) are designed to maintain or exceed the professional standards outlined in
30 paragraph (1), with flexibility to waive degree or credential requirements stated in
31 paragraphs (2), (3), and (5) and section 645A(h) in favor of standards for
32 qualifications based on cultural competence, relevant experience, community-
33 based knowledge, or any other factor the Indian Head Start agency (including an
34 Indian Early Head Start agency) involved determines to be relevant and
35 appropriate; and

36 “(iii) are approved by the Tribal government involved.

37 “(B) CONSULTATION AND GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall, upon request by the
38 Indian Head Start agency (including an Indian Early Head Start agency), provide

1 technical assistance to support the agency in establishing and implementing standards
2 under this section.

3 “(C) REPORTING IN GRANT APPLICATIONS.—An entity seeking to operate an Indian
4 Head Start program (including an Early Head Start program), and intending to exercise
5 the authority under this paragraph to establish and implement standards described in
6 subparagraph (A), shall include a description of the standards as part of the entity’s
7 grant application (including an application for grant renewal), ensuring alignment with
8 the goals and objectives of the program and compliance with this subchapter.”.

9 SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

10 This Act takes effect on the date of enactment of this Act.