

George Bush for President

9/1/88

THE GEORGE BUSH RECORD ON CHILD CARE

George Bush has been involved in early education and child care issues since his service in the Congress in 1967. While the needs were somewhat different, his interest and understanding was evidenced early.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD (1967-71)

In 1967, Bush voted for the Social Security Amendments which contained provisions for day care centers for mothers who enroll in work-training programs [HR 1280]:

"Somebody has to stand up for the man who is working for a living trying to educate his children and trying to feed them as costs rise out of sight. It (HR 1280) provides many built in incentives to encourage people to go out and get jobs. This bill tries to recognize the plight of the forgotten man--the young man with a family. I strongly support this report."

Congressional Record, 12/13/67

Bush co-sponsored the Comprehensive Headstart Child Development Act of 1970. [H.R. 15776]

- o "(It) will provide for increased research into the process of child development; additional facilities to house child-care centers; training for teachers and para-professionals who work with these children; an effective evaluation procedure to provide Congress and the public with accurate, relevant information as to the impact of these programs; and a major step in consolidating and coordinating the 61 present programs."

Congressional Record, 2/9/70

George Bush, as a Member of the House Ways and Means Committee, also made clear in the same speech his support for a family assistance and a welfare program that sought to "motivate work rather than encouraging dependence."

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In March of 1970, the House Ways and Means Committee sent to the House, for action, a major welfare reform bill, affecting some 25 million Americans. HR 16311, The Family Assistance Plan, required the Secretary of HEW to provide necessary child care services for welfare recipients. The bill also authorized the Secretary to make grants for up to 100 % of the cost of child care projects to public or non-profit private agencies.

- o On April 16, 1970, the Vice President voted FOR The Family Assistance Plan. [HR 16311 (1970)]

SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL LEADERSHIP IN CHILD CARE

The federal government in recent years has taken the lead in designing programs to meet the work/family needs of individual federal employees. These policies include: flexitime schedules, part-time employment, leave for dependent day care purposes, voluntary leave-sharing, and support for child care centers and dependent care (child and elder care) information and referral services.

Many of our federal agencies have already demonstrated leadership, and have some form of child care assistance for employees. One good example is the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). OPM co-sponsors, with two other agencies, a child care center, and offers a program of dependent care information and referral free of charge to OPM employees nationwide.

Vice President George Bush, while visiting the Labor Department's in-house day care center, said "diverse solutions" are needed to cope with the increasingly important issue of child day care.

- o "There are major problems in day care....There have got to be diverse solutions, including private partnerships..."

Bush indicated he opposed creating a new federal bureaucracy.

- o "I wouldn't favor a highly centralized program," he said. "That would remove vitality."

Washington Times, 4/15/88

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RECENT COMMENTS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT ON CHILD CARE

- o "As President, I will work closely with the Congress, the States, with parents and the private sector, to examine this problem. A national commission on child care may well be advised and timely. Tax credits and other incentives to the private sector should be examined; and innovative ideas should be encouraged. America's working couples, America's single parents -- and America's children -- deserve our attention."

Working Mother, April 1988

- o "Another issue of much significance to urban America is child care. There are three different concerns that the next President will have to address: affordability, availability and quality. I favor a plan that provides help to those parents who need it most -- those struggling to keep families together. For example, no family should have to stay on welfare or go onto welfare simply because access to child care is lacking.
- o "We need to keep the decision-making in the hands of family -- not the federal government. We need to provide parents with a diversity of choices so that parents choose what kind of care their children will get. Ultimately, parents know far better than the federal government what's best for their children."

Letter to the U.S. Conference
of Mayors, 6/15/88

- o Bush said "the single most important issue arising from the changes in our work force is child care. Child care is nothing short of a family necessity. I am proposing a set of policies that enables families not the government--to decide the right approach for themselves."

Speech by Vice President
George Bush, 7/24/88

During the 1988 presidential campaign, George Bush spelled out his four principles for a federal policy on child care "that responds -- with creativity and compassion -- to a changing world."

Bush's four-point program includes:

- o "Children's Tax Credit" targeted at lower and middle income families;

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- o A refundable dependent care tax credit;
- o Federally sponsored day care to government employees to serve as models to encourage more employee sponsored day care;
- o Seed money to develop new programs in sick child care and before-and after school care.

Fact Sheet on Child Care,
7/24/88

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