



## Capitol Connection

*CCR&Rs' weekly source for federal child care policy news.*

**September 28, 2011**

**\*\*BREAKING NEWS\*\***

### **Office of Child Care Releases Information Memorandum Recommending States Conduct Comprehensive Background Checks on Child Care Providers!**

Today, the Office of Child Care (OCC), Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released an [Information Memorandum](#) recommending that states conduct comprehensive background checks on all child care providers paid with funding from the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).

Specifically, the memo states, "OCC strongly recommends that all providers serving children receiving assistance through the CCDF, regardless of whether they are required to be licensed, undergo a comprehensive background check. In addition, any other persons who have regular unsupervised access to children in these child care settings should be required to undergo comprehensive criminal background checks." This is fully in line with NACCRRRA's evidence-based research and policy priorities!

Today's release is a HUGE VICTORY in our quest to ensure that children are safe in child care. We could not have come this far without all of your hard work.

In addition, the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released a report, ["Child Care: Overview of Relevant Employment Laws and Cases of Sex Offenders at Child Care Facilities,"](#) that shows federal and state laws failed to keep sex offenders out of child care facilities, including child care facilities receiving federal funding. GAO's [findings](#) confirm the need for a comprehensive background check on all child care providers. The

Information Memorandum coupled with the GAO report shows that we are making progress in having our voices heard that all child care providers should have a comprehensive background check.

**Take Action!**

Our work is not done! Now more than ever we need to build on this momentum. Please contact your Members of Congress to ask them to cosponsor legislation requiring comprehensive background checks that are pending in the Senate and the House.

**Contact your Senators** to ask them to cosponsor, [S. 581, the Child Care Protection Act](#), (Sen. Burr, R-NC), and **contact your Representative** to ask him/her to cosponsor [H.R. 1726, the Child Care Protection Act](#) (Rep. Ruppertsberger, D-MD) and [H.R. 1711, the Child Care Criminal Background Check](#) (Rep. Carson, D-IN), by going to our [Take Action site](#).

It's a great day at NACCRRRA and for the child care world!