



## H.R. 1198 – Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.R. 1198 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Lois Capps (D-CA) on February 27, 2007. The legislation was reported out of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, as amended, by voice vote on March 13, 2008.

H.R. 1198 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 8, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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H.R. 1198 reauthorizes the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program through 2014. In addition, the bill allows the Secretary to provide grants for screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention programs and systems, and to assist in the recruitment, retention, education and training of qualified health care providers and qualified personnel. Programs that receive grant awards are required to establish and foster family-to-family support mechanisms.

The bill also allows grants to be used to develop efficient models to ensure that newborns and infants who are identified as having hearing loss receive follow-up care and to ensure that there are an adequate number of qualified personnel to meet the early intervention needs of children. H.R. 1198 also establishes a postdoctoral fellowship program to foster research and development in this field.

This legislation also requires that families of the child with hearing loss are provided comprehensive, consumer-oriented information about family support, training, language, and communication options, as well as appropriate services and educational program placements.

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### BACKGROUND

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The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program was created as a part of the Children's Health Act (P.L. 106-310) which was signed into law on October 17, 2000. The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program is administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

According to the CDC's website, more than 12,000 babies are born in the United States each year with hearing loss. Most babies receive a hearing screening soon after birth, called the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening.

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention programs are set up by states and territories to ensure that infants and children with hearing loss are found and receive help in a timely manner. Children with hearing loss that is not identified can have delays in speech, language, and cognitive development.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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