

Question for Secretary Leavitt from Chairman Rangel:

A table in the Administration's Budget (on page 375 of the Analytical Perspectives) highlights the number of children who will receive Federal child care coverage under the budget reconciliation bill that passed Congress last year. It shows a drop of 300,000 children receiving child care assistance within five years compared to fiscal year 2006. This basically reaffirms our previous concerns that the modest increase in child care funding provided in the Deficit Reduction Act was insufficient to keep pace with inflation, let alone the new work requirements for welfare recipients.

1. How do you expect States to place more welfare recipients into work activities when Federal funding for child care is covering fewer and fewer families?
2. Do you expect States who are unable to cover the huge shortfall in Federal child care funding to cut programs for needy families? If this were to occur, do you anticipate that States would likely cut child care services to the working poor families first?