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CLASP Finds 2008 Budget Neglects the Child Care Needs of Working Families

(Washington, DC) – According to analysis by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), the Bush Administration’s 2008 budget demonstrates the ongoing low priority the Administration gives to child care for working families. The budget proposes a freeze in discretionary funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) for the sixth consecutive year.

In “Families Forgotten: Administration’s Priorities Put Child Care Low on List,” Danielle Ewen and Hannah Matthews point out that the President’s proposed budget—according to the Administration’s own projections—would result in 300,000 fewer children receiving child care assistance by 2010. Despite evidence of the negative effect of flat funding on state programs, the budget once again proposes freezing funding for CCDBG, as well as for Head Start.

The authors argue that this budget makes it clear that the needs of working families are not a priority to the Administration. And they call for Congress to show its support for these families by acting to increase CCDBG funding by at least the amount needed to offset inflation, about \$720 million.

“Families Forgotten” is available at http://www.clasp.org/publications/2008_budget_child_care.pdf.

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