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Date: 3/1/2013 2:57:38 PM

Subject: Proposed Amendment to S 291 (First Steps)

Attachments: (2013-03-01) S 291 - First Steps Reauth - Draft Amend (v02).docx

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Katherine,

Do you mind passing this along to Sen. Fair for his consideration? I tracked changes and put a lot of comments in the margin in order to explain what I tweaked and why.

I've talked to Joe Waters at ICS a number of times, going back into last year, so the version of this bill that was introduced already reflected a number of comments and suggestions from our office. Most of the rest of what's in here includes items that I discussed with Joe, but never had a chance to get him language on (the Executive Order issue being a notable example). Some of the others are more recent, but I gave him a call after we talked to Sen. Fair and gave him an overview of what we had in mind. So I'll share the amendment with Joe shortly, as well.

In broad strokes, the proposed amendment does the following:

- Makes a number of technical and/or clarifying revisions
- Revises references to Executive Orders or their successors, to ensure that the links are preserved if those orders are subsequently reissued
- Maintains reviews on the current 3-year schedule (vs. 5 years in the unamended bill)
- Directs the First Steps Board to make a recommendation on assessment(s) by 12/1/14 (vs. 7/1/15 in the unamended bill)
- Directs the Treasurer to withhold funds if a program evaluation report is more than 3 months late
- Directs the LAC to issue an update to its imminent 2013 report by 12/1/14
- Reauthorizes First Steps until 7/1/15

There are a few other ins and outs, but I think those are the major items. Obviously, I'm glad to meet with Sen. Fair and others to discuss this next week if he's interested. Thanks.

CLS

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