

Statement adopted at the 76th Hadassah National Convention

AMERICAN AFFAIRS

July 1990
New York, NY

CHILD CARE

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, remains strongly and firmly committed to the necessity of child care programs as essential and of prime importance to the well-being of American society.

Child care remains for all of us an important and critical issue. We are highly sensitive to the need for adequate programs.

We support measures which will improve federal, state and private standards for licensing, monitoring and reviewing of day care facilities, as well as provisions which provide training of qualified child care workers.

We must, however, oppose the House of Representatives Early Childhood Education and Development Act of 1990 (HR 3), and the Senate Act for Better Child Care Services (S 5). Both of these bills provide voucher systems for day care facilities, including those that offer religious instruction and discriminate on the basis of religious affiliation. Further, they permit discrimination in employment and hiring.

The Supreme Court of the United States in the past has drawn a clear line forbidding use of public money for religious education.

The violation of any part of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which prohibits government establishment of religion, is a violation of our intrinsic principles as Americans and Jews.