



Lawmaker: Legislature to consider bill to restore day care funding

[By Gregory Tejada Times Correspondent](#)

The Illinois General Assembly will consider a measure in coming days that would restore funding for a state program that provides assistance to day care centers, a Calumet City lawmaker says.

The bill in question would provide \$73 million in supplemental funding for the Child Care Assistance Program. Day care centers were informed this week that funding for the program was being cut off due to the state's financial problems, and they would not receive any more aid until July 1, the beginning of the state's new fiscal year.

State Rep. Thaddeus Jones, D-Calumet City, who supports the day care centers, said Saturday that a bill providing for the supplemental funding will be sponsored by state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago.

It was introduced late Friday, and Jones said he is hopeful the bill will be approved by the Illinois House and Senate before May 15.

If passed, it would ensure day care centers receive the full amount of state funding they were expecting to get for the current fiscal year. Without it, many day care operators in the south suburbs have told The

Times they would have to close down in coming weeks.

Day care operators have expressed an interest in holding a rally at the Statehouse in Springfield on May 16 to urge legislators to support their cause.

"Maybe they can come to the Statehouse to thank their legislators for doing this," Jones said.