

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 948

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize funding for the establishment of a program on children and the media within the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study the role and impact of electronic media in the development of children.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2007

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CASEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize funding for the establishment of a program on children and the media within the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study the role and impact of electronic media in the development of children.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Children and Media
5 Research Advancement Act” or the “CAMRA Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 It is the purpose of this Act to enable the National
3 Institute of Child Health and Human Development to—

4 (1) examine the role and impact, both positive
5 and negative, of electronic media in children’s and
6 adolescents’ cognitive, social, emotional, physical,
7 and behavioral development; and

8 (2) provide for a report to Congress containing
9 the empirical evidence and other results produced by
10 the research funded through grants under this Act.

11 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH ON THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF ELEC-**
12 **TRONIC MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF**
13 **CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.**

14 Subpart 7 of part C of title IV of the Public Health
15 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285g et seq.) is amended by adding
16 at the end the following:

17 **“SEC. 452H. RESEARCH ON THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF**
18 **ELECTRONIC MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT**
19 **OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
21 propriations, the Secretary, acting through the Director
22 of the Institute), shall enter into a contract with the Na-
23 tional Academy of Sciences, in collaboration with the Insti-
24 tute of Medicine or another appropriate entity to review,
25 synthesize, and report on research, and establish research
26 priorities, regarding the roles and impact of electronic

1 media (including television, motion pictures, DVD's, inter-
2 active video games, digital music, the Internet, and cell
3 phones) and exposures to such media on youth in the fol-
4 lowing core areas of development:

5 “(1) COGNITIVE.—Cognitive areas such as lan-
6 guage development, attention span, problem solving
7 skills (such as the ability to conduct multiple tasks
8 or ‘multitask’), visual and spatial skills, reading, and
9 other learning abilities.

10 “(2) PHYSICAL.—Physical areas such as phys-
11 ical coordination, diet, exercise, sleeping and eating
12 routines.

13 “(3) SOCIO-BEHAVIORAL.—Socio-behavioral
14 areas such as family activities and peer relationships
15 including indoor and outdoor play time, interactions
16 with parents, consumption habits, social relation-
17 ships, aggression, and positive social behavior.

18 “(b) RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Taking into account the re-
20 port provided for under subsection (a), the Sec-
21 retary, acting through the Director, shall, subject to
22 the availability of appropriations, award grants for
23 research concerning the role and impact of electronic
24 media on the cognitive, physical, and socio-behav-
25 ioral development of youth.

1 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The research provided
2 for under paragraph (1) shall comply with the fol-
3 lowing requirements:

4 “(A) Such research shall focus on the im-
5 pact of factors such as media content (whether
6 direct or indirect), format, length of exposure,
7 age of youth, venue, and nature of parental in-
8 volvement.

9 “(B) Such research shall not duplicate
10 other Federal research activities.

11 “(C) For purposes of such research, elec-
12 tronic media shall include television, motion pic-
13 tures, DVD’s, interactive video games, digital
14 music, the Internet, and cell phones.

15 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to re-
16 ceive a grant under this subsection, an entity shall—

17 “(A) prepare and submit to the Director
18 an application at such time, in such manner,
19 and containing such information as the Director
20 shall require; and

21 “(B) agree to use amounts received under
22 the grant to carry out activities as described in
23 this subsection.

24 “(c) REPORTS.—

1 “(1) REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR.—Not later
2 than 15 months after the date of the enactment of
3 this section, the report provided for under subsection
4 (a) shall be submitted to the Director and to the ap-
5 propriate committees of Congress.

6 “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
7 December 31, 2013, the Secretary, acting through
8 the Director, shall prepare and submit to the appro-
9 priate committees of Congress a report that—

10 “(A) synthesizes the results of—

11 “(i) research carried out under the
12 grant program under subsection (b); and

13 “(ii) other related research, including
14 research conducted by the private or public
15 sector and other Federal entities; and

16 “(B) outlines existing research gaps in
17 light of the information described in subpara-
18 graph (A).

19 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
21 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, \$15,000,000 for fiscal
22 year 2009, \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, \$25,000,000
23 for fiscal year 2011, and \$25,000,000 for fiscal year
24 2012.”.

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