

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5399

To establish a National Remote Teacher Corps, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2010

Mr. SABLAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To establish a National Remote Teacher Corps, and for
other purposes.

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. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL REMOTE**
4 **TEACHER CORPS.**

5 The Secretary of Education may establish the Na-
6 tional Remote Teacher Corps (in this Act referred to as
7 the “Corps”) to fill teacher vacancies, reduce class sizes,
8 and improve educational quality in qualified remote areas.

9 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION AS A CORPS SITE.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to be designated as a
11 Corps site, a local educational agency or charter school

1 located in a qualified remote area shall submit an applica-
2 tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
3 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

4 (b) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under
5 subsection (a) shall demonstrate that the agency or char-
6 ter school is—

7 (1) experiencing a shortage of teachers;

8 (2) willing to work with the Secretary to—

9 (A) promote teacher accountability and
10 high standards for teachers; and

11 (B) provide cooperation, support, and use
12 of facilities for the programs described in sec-
13 tion 10;

14 (3) willing to provide mentorship and profes-
15 sional development programs to teachers;

16 (4) willing to provide compensation in accord-
17 ance with section 8(a) for each Corps participant
18 placed with the agency or school under the Corps;
19 and

20 (5) willing to—

21 (A) work with the Secretary under section
22 9 to develop and implement an alternative cer-
23 tification route for individuals selected to be
24 Corps participants; or

1 (B) allow such individuals to participate in
2 an existing alternative certification program
3 that is in compliance with any requirements
4 prescribed by the Secretary.

5 **SEC. 3. RECRUITMENT.**

6 The Secretary may—

7 (1) conduct recruiting programs for the Corps
8 at institutions of higher education, including institu-
9 tions that offer majors in the fields of education,
10 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics;
11 and

12 (2) recruit current highly qualified elementary
13 school or secondary school teachers.

14 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION; SELECTION CRITERIA; PRIORITY.**

15 (a) APPLICATION.—Selection of individuals to par-
16 ticipate in the Corps shall be made on the basis of applica-
17 tions submitted to the Secretary at such time, in such
18 manner, and containing such information as the Secretary
19 may require.

20 (b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—An individual selected to
21 participate in the Corps shall—

22 (1) have at least a bachelor's degree from an
23 institution of higher education; and

24 (2) comply with such other criteria as the Sec-
25 retary may prescribe.

1 (c) PRIORITY.—In selecting individuals to participate
2 in the Corps, the Secretary shall give priority to individ-
3 uals—

4 (1) with at least a master’s degree in education
5 (such as special education or teaching English as a
6 second language), science, technology, engineering,
7 or mathematics and who agree to seek employment
8 as science, technology, engineering, mathematics,
9 special education, or English as a second language
10 teachers in elementary schools or secondary schools;
11 or

12 (2) who are highly qualified teachers with—

13 (A) 10 or more years of experience teach-
14 ing students in elementary school or secondary
15 school; or

16 (B) equivalent qualifications and experi-
17 ence, as determined by the Secretary.

18 **SEC. 5. COMPENSATION FOR APPLICANTS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may reimburse an
20 individual applying to participate in the Corps for the ac-
21 tual and reasonable expenses incurred—

22 (1) in traveling to and from the individual’s
23 place of residence to a Corps site at which the indi-
24 vidual may be placed under section 6 for the purpose

1 of evaluating such site with regard to being assigned
2 at such site; and

3 (2) for the travel of 1 family member to accom-
4 pany the individual to such site.

5 (b) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT.**—The Secretary may estab-
6 lish a maximum total amount that may be paid to an indi-
7 vidual as reimbursement for such expenses.

8 **SEC. 6. PLACEMENT OF CORPS PARTICIPANTS.**

9 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall place each in-
10 dividual selected to be a Corps participant with a local
11 educational agency or charter school that is designated as
12 a Corps site.

13 (b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In placing a Corps partici-
14 pant at a Corps site, the Secretary shall take into ac-
15 count—

16 (1) the preference of the Corps participant;

17 (2) the preferences of local educational agencies
18 and charter schools that are Corps sites; and

19 (3) the relative need among Corps sites with re-
20 spect to teacher shortages, including—

21 (A) the total number of open teaching po-
22 sitions;

23 (B) the number of teachers needed for
24 class size reductions; and

1 (C) the shortage of teachers with a par-
2 ticular subject-matter expertise.

3 **SEC. 7. PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.**

4 (a) PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—An individual selected to
6 participate in the Corps shall be required to enter
7 into an agreement with the Secretary under which
8 the individual agrees—

9 (A) within such time as the Secretary may
10 require, to obtain certification or licensing as an
11 elementary school teacher or secondary school
12 teacher under section 9 or through another pro-
13 cedure approved by the Secretary; and

14 (B) to accept an offer of full-time employ-
15 ment as an elementary school teacher or sec-
16 ondary school teacher for not less than 3 school
17 years with a local educational agency or charter
18 school that is a Corps site.

19 (2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the 3-
20 year commitment described in paragraph (1)(B), or
21 any other requirement under a participation agree-
22 ment described in paragraph (1), for a participant
23 if the Secretary determines such waiver to be appro-
24 priate. If the Secretary provides the waiver to a par-
25 ticipant, the participant—

1 (A) shall not be considered to be in viola-
2 tion of the agreement; and

3 (B) shall not be required to provide reim-
4 bursement for any funds received as a Corps
5 participant.

6 (b) AGREEMENT RENEWAL.—Upon completion of the
7 3-year commitment described in subsection (a)(1)(B), a
8 Corp participant's participation agreement may be re-
9 newed in 1-year increments.

10 **SEC. 8. COMPENSATION FOR CORPS PARTICIPANTS.**

11 (a) SALARY.—A Corps participant shall be considered
12 an employee of the local educational agency or charter
13 school in which the participant is employed under the
14 Corps and shall be compensated at the same rates, includ-
15 ing periodic increases, as employees who are similarly situ-
16 ated in similar teaching positions and who have similar
17 training, experience, and skills, and such rates shall be
18 in accordance with applicable law.

19 (b) FEDERAL BENEFITS.—

20 (1) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Any Fed-
21 eral funds a Corps participant receives from the Sec-
22 retary under this section or section 5 shall supple-
23 ment, not supplant, the compensation the partici-
24 pant receives under subsection (a) of this section.

1 (2) TRAVEL STIPENDS.—The Secretary may re-
2 reimburse each Corps participant for all or part of the
3 actual and reasonable expenses incurred by the par-
4 ticipant and 1 family member when traveling, not
5 more than once per year of participation, from the
6 Corps site to any location in the continental United
7 States and from such location back to the Corps
8 site.

9 (3) CASH BONUS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
11 award annual or one-time cash bonuses to
12 Corps participants, in amounts determined by
13 the Secretary.

14 (B) PRIORITY.—In awarding cash bonuses
15 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall
16 give priority to Corps participants—

17 (i) with at least a master’s degree in
18 education (such as special education or
19 teaching English as a second language),
20 science, technology, engineering, or mathe-
21 matics and who are participating in the
22 Corps as science, technology, engineering,
23 mathematics, special education, or English
24 as a second language teachers in elemen-
25 tary schools or secondary schools; or

1 (ii) who are highly qualified teachers
2 with—

3 (I) 10 or more years of experi-
4 ence teaching students in elementary
5 school or secondary school; or

6 (II) equivalent qualifications and
7 experience, as determined by the Sec-
8 retary.

9 (C) TREATMENT OF CASH BONUS.—A cash
10 bonus paid under subparagraph (A) to a Corps
11 participant shall not be taken into account in
12 determining the eligibility of the participant for
13 Federal student financial assistance provided
14 under title IV of the Higher Education Act of
15 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070).

16 **SEC. 9. ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION ROUTE.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (d), the Sec-
18 retary and each Corps site shall, jointly, develop and im-
19 plement a high-quality alternative certification route for
20 individuals selected to participate in the Corps who are
21 not certified teachers.

22 (b) PRIORITY.—In selecting individuals described in
23 subsection (a) to participate in the alternative certification
24 route, the Secretary shall give priority to individuals—

25 (1) who do not have a degree in education; and

1 (2) who have expertise in a field in which there
2 is a shortage of teachers, such as mathematics,
3 science, special education, English language acqui-
4 sition, or another high-need subject.

5 (c) ACCESS.—All classes and materials available
6 under the alternative certification route shall be accessible
7 to all Corps participants.

8 (d) EXCEPTION.—A Corps site that has an existing
9 alternative certification program that complies with any
10 requirements prescribed by the Secretary, may, in lieu of
11 developing and implementing an alternative certification
12 route under subsection (a), allow individuals described in
13 subsection (a) participate in such program.

14 **SEC. 10. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DISTANCE**
15 **LEARNING.**

16 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM.—From the
17 amounts appropriated to carry out this subsection under
18 section 12, the Secretary, in consultation with at least 1
19 institution of higher education that is a research univer-
20 sity, as determined by the Secretary, shall develop a pro-
21 fessional development and distance-learning certificate or
22 degree program that offers academic credit through—

23 (1) online classes;

24 (2) classes through video- or tele-conference
25 technology;

1 (3) independent study;
2 (4) in-person instruction at Corps sites; and
3 (5) other distance learning methodologies as the
4 Secretary designates,
5 to assist individuals located in qualified remote areas in
6 becoming highly qualified teachers.

7 (b) GRANTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appro-
9 priated to carry out this subsection under section
10 12, the Secretary shall award grants to institutions
11 of higher education that offer the program developed
12 under subsection (a) to students enrolled at the in-
13 stitution.

14 (2) USES OF FUNDS.—An institution of higher
15 education that receives a grant under this subsection
16 shall use such grant funds to cover—

17 (A) the cost of administering the program
18 developed under subsection (a); and

19 (B) to the maximum extent practicable,
20 the total cost of program tuition for teachers at
21 Corps sites enrolled in the program at the insti-
22 tution.

23 (3) APPLICATION.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant
25 under this subsection, an institution of higher

1 education shall submit to the Secretary an ap-
2 plication at such time, in such manner, and
3 containing such information as the Secretary
4 may require.

5 (B) ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS.—An ap-
6 plication submitted under subparagraph (A)
7 shall include an assurance by the institution
8 that the institution will include the program in
9 its articulation agreements between or among
10 other institutions of higher education.

11 **SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
14 vided, any term that is defined in section 9101 of
15 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
16 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801) shall have the meaning given
17 such term in such section.

18 (2) ARTICULATION AGREEMENT.—The term
19 “articulation agreement” has the meaning given
20 such term in section 486A of the Higher Education
21 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1093a).

22 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
23 term “institution of higher education” has the
24 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
25 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

1 (4) QUALIFIED REMOTE AREA.—The term
2 “qualified remote area” means an area—

3 (A) from which an institution of higher
4 education is located more than 3 hours away
5 when using public or private transportation (in-
6 cluding rail or bus);

7 (B) to which the only method of access to
8 the site at least 6 months of the year is by boat
9 or airplane; or

10 (C) that is located in a United States Ter-
11 ritory.

12 (5) UNITED STATES TERRITORY.—The term
13 “United States Territory” means the United States
14 Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Com-
15 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and
16 Puerto Rico.

17 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
19 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

○