

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1336

To amend the Adult Education Act to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to States to provide support services to participants in adult education programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 1997

Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. ROEMER, Mrs. ROUKEMA, and Mr. WATT of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Adult Education Act to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to States to provide support services to participants in adult education programs.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) There are approximately 46,100,000 adults
6 16 years of age or older who are not in school, are
7 without a high school diploma, or who score in the

1 lowest 2 levels of the National Adult Literacy Sur-
2 vey.

3 (2) Only 9 percent of those 46,100,000 illit-
4 erate adults are served by available adult education
5 programs nationwide.

6 (3) Participation in adult education programs
7 should be increased to 25 percent.

8 (4) Increased participation will result in a drop
9 in the number of individuals on public assistance
10 and an increase in the number of individuals who
11 are gainfully employed.

12 (5) Studies show that literacy levels are strong-
13 ly correlated with educational attainment, income,
14 and employment status.

15 (6) An Ohio University economist has estimated
16 that adult illiteracy costs Americans more than
17 \$175,000,000,000 per year through lost income and
18 tax revenue, higher unemployment, more crime, and
19 higher training costs for business and industry.

20 (7) The Department of Education has reported
21 that individuals who successfully complete adult edu-
22 cation programs are likely to use support services,
23 and that the availability of support services is a sub-
24 stantial predictor of enrollee classroom attendance.

1 (8) Studies show that the most influential vari-
2 able in a child’s participation and success in school
3 is parental educational level.

4 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Adult Education Act (20
6 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
7 373 the following:

8 **“SEC. 374. GRANTS FOR SUPPORT SERVICES.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants
10 on the basis of a competitive review process to States for
11 the purpose of providing support services to adults en-
12 rolled in, or desiring to enroll in, adult education pro-
13 grams, services, or activities, who otherwise would be un-
14 able to do so. Such support services may include child
15 care, transportation, or any other service that the Sec-
16 retary determines is consistent with this section.

17 “(b) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—The Secretary may
18 make not more than ten, 3 year grants under this section.

19 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—To apply for a grant under this
20 section, a State shall submit an application to the Sec-
21 retary in accordance with the procedures established by
22 the Secretary.

23 “(d) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall, through
24 contracts with nongovernmental entities, provide for a cu-

1 mulative review of the progress and effectiveness of at
 2 least five grants made under this section.

3 “(e) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
 4 submit an interim report to the Congress concerning the
 5 results of the evaluations conducted under subsection (d),
 6 not later than the end of the second year in which the
 7 Secretary makes grants under this section. The Secretary
 8 shall submit a final report to the Congress concerning
 9 such subject not later than the end of the third year for
 10 which the Secretary makes grants under this section.

11 “(f) FUNDING.—

12 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
 13 For the purpose of carrying out this section, there
 14 are authorized to be appropriated \$12,000,000 for
 15 each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2000. No
 16 amount may be expended to carry out the provisions
 17 of this section in any fiscal year unless the amount
 18 appropriated for such fiscal year pursuant to section
 19 313 equals or exceeds the amount appropriated pur-
 20 suant to such section for fiscal year 1997.

21 “(2) SET-ASIDE FOR EVALUATION.—Of the
 22 amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fis-
 23 cal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than
 24 17 percent for carrying out subsection (d).”.

25 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) BASIC PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION OF AP-
2 PROPRIATIONS.—Section 313(a) of the Adult Edu-
3 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1201b(a)) is amended by
4 striking “371 and 372).” and inserting “371, 372,
5 and 374).”.

6 (2) PART C HEADING.—The part heading for
7 part C of the Adult Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1211
8 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

9 **“PART C—WORKPLACE LITERACY, ENG-**
10 **LISH LITERACY GRANTS, AND GRANTS**
11 **FOR SUPPORT SERVICES”.**

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