

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1461

To establish a youth mentoring program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 8, 1997

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. COATS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a youth mentoring program.

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 “JUMP Ahead Act of
5 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) millions of young people in America live in
9 areas in which drug use and violent and property
10 crimes are pervasive;

11 (2) unfortunately, many of these same young
12 people come from single parent homes, or from envi-

1 ronments in which there is no responsible, caring
2 adult supervision;

3 (3) all children and adolescents need caring
4 adults in their lives, and mentoring is an effective
5 way to fill this special need for at-risk children. The
6 special bond of commitment fostered by the mutual
7 respect inherent in effective mentoring can be the tie
8 that binds a young person to a better future;

9 (4) through a mentoring relationship, adult vol-
10 unteers and participating youth make a significant
11 commitment of time and energy to develop relation-
12 ships devoted to personal, academic, or career devel-
13 opment and social, artistic, or athletic growth;

14 (5) rigorous independent studies have confirmed
15 that effective mentoring programs can significantly
16 reduce and prevent the use of alcohol and drugs by
17 young people, improve school attendance and per-
18 formance, improve peer and family and peer rela-
19 tionships, and reduce violent behavior;

20 (6) since the inception of the Federal JUMP
21 program, dozens of innovative, effective mentoring
22 programs have received funding grants;

23 (7) unfortunately, despite the recent growth in
24 public and private mentoring initiatives, it is re-
25 ported that between 5,000,000 and 15,000,000 addi-

1 tional children in the United States could benefit
 2 from being matched with a mentor; and

3 (8) although great strides have been made in
 4 reaching at-risk youth since the inception of the
 5 JUMP program, millions of vulnerable American
 6 children are not being reached, and without an in-
 7 creased commitment to connect these young people
 8 to responsible adult role models, our country risks
 9 losing an entire generation to drugs, crime, and un-
 10 productive lives.

11 **SEC. 3. JUVENILE MENTORING GRANTS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 288B of the Juvenile Jus-
 13 tice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.
 14 5667e–2) is amended—

15 (1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before
 16 “The Administrator shall”;

17 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
 18 following:

19 “(2) are intended to achieve 1 or more of the
 20 following goals:

21 “(A) Discourage at-risk youth from—

22 “(i) using illegal drugs and alcohol;

23 “(ii) engaging in violence;

24 “(iii) using guns and other dangerous
 25 weapons;

1 “(iv) engaging in other criminal and
2 antisocial behavior; and

3 “(v) becoming involved in gangs.

4 “(B) Promote personal and social respon-
5 sibility among at-risk youth.

6 “(C) Increase at-risk youth’s participation
7 in, and enhance the ability of those youth to
8 benefit from, elementary and secondary edu-
9 cation.

10 “(D) Encourage at-risk youth participation
11 in community service and community activities.

12 “(E) Provide general guidance to at-risk
13 youth.”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(b) AMOUNT AND DURATION.—Each grant under
16 this part shall be awarded in an amount not to exceed
17 a total of \$200,000 over a period of not more than 3 years.

18 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of
20 fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 to carry out this
21 part.”.

22 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION GRANTS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Office
24 of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the De-
25 partment of Justice may make grants to national organi-

1 zations or agencies serving youth, in order to enable those
2 organizations or agencies—

3 (1) to conduct a multisite demonstration
4 project, involving between 5 and 10 project sites,
5 that—

6 (A) provides an opportunity to compare
7 various mentoring models for the purpose of
8 evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of
9 those models;

10 (B) allows for innovative programs de-
11 signed under the oversight of a national organi-
12 zation or agency serving youth, which programs
13 may include—

14 (i) technical assistance;

15 (ii) training; and

16 (iii) research and evaluation; and

17 (C) disseminates the results of such dem-
18 onstration project to allow for the determina-
19 tion of the best practices for various mentoring
20 programs;

21 (2) to develop and evaluate screening standards
22 for mentoring programs; and

23 (3) to develop and evaluate volunteer recruit-
24 ment techniques and activities for mentoring pro-
25 grams.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of the
3 fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 to carry out this
4 section.

5 **SEC. 5. EVALUATIONS; REPORTS.**

6 (a) EVALUATIONS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
8 enter into a contract with an evaluating organization
9 that has demonstrated experience in conducting eval-
10 uations, for the conduct of an ongoing rigorous eval-
11 uation of the programs and activities assisted under
12 this Act or under section 228B of the Juvenile Jus-
13 tice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42
14 U.S.C. 5667e–2) (as amended by this Act).

15 (2) CRITERIA.—The Attorney General shall es-
16 tablish a minimum criteria for evaluating the pro-
17 grams and activities assisted under this Act or
18 under section 228B of the Juvenile Justice and De-
19 linquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5667e–
20 2) (as amended by this Act), which shall provide for
21 a description of the implementation of the program
22 or activity, and the effect of the program or activity
23 on participants, schools, communities, and youth
24 served by the program or activity.

1 (3) MENTORING PROGRAM OF THE YEAR.—The
2 Attorney General shall, on an annual basis, based on
3 the most recent evaluation under this subsection and
4 such other criteria as the Attorney General shall es-
5 tablish by regulation—

6 (A) designate 1 program or activity as-
7 sisted under this Act as the “Juvenile
8 Mentoring Program of the Year”; and

9 (B) publish notice of such designation in
10 the Federal Register.

11 (b) REPORTS.—

12 (1) GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Each entity receiving
13 a grant under this Act or under section 228B of the
14 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of
15 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5667e–2) (as amended by this Act)
16 shall submit to the evaluating organization entering
17 into the contract under subsection (a)(1), an annual
18 report regarding any program or activity assisted
19 under this Act or under section 228B of the Juve-
20 nile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974
21 (42 U.S.C. 5667e–2) (as amended by this Act).
22 Each report under this paragraph shall be submitted
23 at such time, in such a manner, and shall be accom-
24 panied by such information, as the evaluating orga-
25 nization may reasonably require.

1 (2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than
2 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
3 Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report
4 evaluating the effectiveness of grants awarded under
5 this Act and under section 228B of the Juvenile
6 Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42
7 U.S.C. 5667e–2) (as amended by this Act), in—

8 (A) reducing juvenile delinquency and gang
9 participation;

10 (B) reducing the school dropout rate; and

11 (C) improving academic performance of ju-
12 veniles.

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