

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2982

To provide grants to States and local educational agencies to recruit, train, and hire 100,000 school-based resource staff to help students deal with personal state of mind problems.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii (for herself, Mr. CLAY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. FORD, Mr. STARK, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide grants to States and local educational agencies to recruit, train, and hire 100,000 school-based resource staff to help students deal with personal state of mind problems.

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. RESOURCE STAFF FOR STUDENTS.**

4 Title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8001 et. seq) is amended by add-
6 ing at the end the following:

1 **“PART L—RESOURCE STAFF FOR STUDENTS**

2 **“SEC. 10993. FINDINGS.**

3 “Congress finds the following:

4 “(1) Although 7,500,000 children under the age
5 of 18 require mental health services, fewer than 1 in
6 5 of these children receive the services.

7 “(2) Across the United States, counseling pro-
8 fessionals have an extremely busy caseload and often
9 students do not get the help they need. The current
10 national average ratio of students to counselors in
11 elementary and secondary schools is 513:1.

12 “(3) Schools in the United States need more
13 mental health professionals, and the funds needed to
14 hire staff to specifically serve students.

15 “(4) The maximum recommended ratio of stu-
16 dents-to-counselors is 250:1.

17 “(5) Existing counselors are severely taxed to
18 perform duties that are largely administrative in na-
19 ture, such as scheduling. They are burdened with
20 many demands regarding placement in colleges,
21 texting, career guidance, and the like.

22 “(6) Student populations are expected to grow
23 significantly over the next few years. School-based
24 services for students will be in great demand. With
25 expected large scale retirements, more than 100,000
26 new dedicated resource staff for students will be

1 needed to increase student-to-staff service avail-
2 ability.

3 “(7) The Federal support for reducing the stu-
4 dent-to-staff ratio would pay for itself, through re-
5 duced violence and substance abuse, and through
6 improvements in students’ academic achievement.

7 **“SEC. 10994. PURPOSE.**

8 “The purpose of this part is to assist States and local
9 educational agencies recruit, train, and hire 100,000
10 school-based resource staff to specifically work with
11 students—

12 “(1) to reduce the student-to-counseling ratios
13 nationally, in grades 6–12, to an average of 1 such
14 staff for every 250 students as recommended in a
15 report by the Institute of Medicine of the National
16 Academy of Sciences relating to schools and health,
17 issued in 1997;

18 “(2) to help address the mental, emotional, and
19 developmental needs of public school students; and

20 “(3) to support other school staff and teachers
21 in reaching students early before problems arise,
22 conducting behavioral interventions to improve
23 school discipline, and developing the awareness and
24 skills to identify early warning signs of violence and
25 the need for mental health services.

1 **“SEC. 10995. STUDENT RESOURCE STAFF PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
3 grants under this section to establish or expand the num-
4 ber of resource staff available for students’ needs.

5 “(1) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants
6 under this section, the Secretary shall allocate funds
7 proportionately based on the population that is less
8 than 18 years of age in the States.

9 “(2) DURATION.—A grant under this section
10 shall be awarded for a period not to exceed three
11 years.

12 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational
14 agency desiring a grant under this section shall sub-
15 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in
16 such manner, and accompanied by such information
17 as the Secretary may reasonably require.

18 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application for a grant
19 under this section shall—

20 “(A) describe the secondary public school
21 population to be targeted by the program, the
22 particular personal, social, emotional, education,
23 and career development needs of such popu-
24 lation, and the current school counseling re-
25 sources available for meeting such needs;

1 “(B) describe the activities, services, and
2 training to be provided by the program and the
3 specific approaches to be used to meet the
4 needs described in subparagraph (A);

5 “(C) describe the methods to be used to
6 evaluate the outcomes and effectiveness of the
7 program;

8 “(D) document that the applicant has the
9 personnel qualified to develop, implement, and
10 administer the program;

11 “(E) assure that the funds made available
12 under this part for any fiscal year will be used
13 to supplement and, to the extent practicable, in-
14 crease the level of funds that would otherwise
15 be available from non-Federal sources for the
16 program described in the application, and in no
17 case supplant such funds from non-Federal
18 sources.

19 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants funds under this sec-
20 tion shall be used to initiate or expand student resource
21 staff programs that comply with the purpose under section
22 10994.

23 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this part the
24 term ‘resource staff’ means an individual who has docu-
25 mented competence and training in mental health to be

1 able to provide services to children and adolescents in a
2 school setting and who—

3 “(1) possesses State licensure or certification in
4 mental health granted by an independent profes-
5 sional regulatory authority;

6 “(2) in the absence of such State licensure or
7 certification, possesses national certification in men-
8 tal health or in a related specialty granted by an
9 independent professional organization; or

10 “(3) holds a minimum of a master’s degree in
11 school counseling from a program accredited by the
12 Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related
13 Educational Programs or the equivalent; or

14 “(4) possesses a minimum of 60 graduate se-
15 mester hours in school psychology from an institu-
16 tion of higher education and has completed 1,200
17 clock hours in a supervised school psychology intern-
18 ship, of which 600 hours shall be in the school set-
19 ting, and possesses State licensure or certification in
20 school psychology in the State in which the indi-
21 vidual works; or

22 “(5) holds a master’s degree in social work and
23 is licensed or certified by the State in which services
24 are to be provided or holds a school social work spe-
25 cialist credential.

1 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part
3 \$3,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2000; \$3,150,000,000 for
4 fiscal year 2001; \$2,800,000,000 for fiscal year 2002;
5 \$2,800,000,000 for fiscal year 2003; and \$2,800,000,000
6 for fiscal year 2004 for the hiring of student resource
7 staff.”.

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