

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 514

To improve the National Writing Project.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 1999

Mr. COCHRAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred  
to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To improve the National Writing Project.

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. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL WRITING**  
4 **PROJECT.**

5 (a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—Section 10991 of the  
6 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
7 U.S.C. 8331) is amended to read as follows:

8 **“SEC. 10991. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

9 “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

10 “(1) the United States faces a continuing crisis  
11 in writing in schools and in the workplace;

1           “(2) the writing problem has been magnified by  
2           the rapidly changing student population, the growing  
3           number of at-risk students due to limited English  
4           proficiency, the shortage of adequately trained  
5           teachers, and the specialized knowledge required of  
6           teachers to teach students with special needs who  
7           are now part of mainstream classrooms;

8           “(3) nationwide reports from universities and  
9           colleges show that entering students are unable to  
10          meet the demands of college level writing, almost all  
11          2-year institutions of higher education offer remedial  
12          writing courses, and three-quarters of public 4-year  
13          institutions of higher education and half of all pri-  
14          vate 4-year institutions of higher education must  
15          provide remedial courses in writing;

16          “(4) American businesses and corporations are  
17          concerned about the limited writing skills of both  
18          entry-level workers and executives whose promotions  
19          are denied due to inadequate writing abilities;

20          “(5) writing is fundamental to learning, includ-  
21          ing learning to read, yet writing has been neglected  
22          historically in schools and in teacher training institu-  
23          tions;

24          “(6) writing is a central feature in State and  
25          school district education standards in all disciplines;

1           “(7) since 1973, the only national program to  
2           address the writing problem in the Nation’s schools  
3           has been the National Writing Project, a network of  
4           collaborative university-school programs the goals of  
5           which are to improve student achievement in writing  
6           and student learning through improving the teaching  
7           and uses of writing at all grade levels and in all dis-  
8           ciplines;

9           “(8) the National Writing Project is a nation-  
10          ally recognized and honored nonprofit organization  
11          that improves the quality of teaching and teachers  
12          through developing teacher leaders who teach other  
13          teachers in summer and school year programs;

14          “(9) evaluations of the National Writing  
15          Project document the positive impact the project has  
16          had on improving the teaching of writing, student  
17          performance in writing, and student learning;

18          “(10) the National Writing Project has become  
19          a model for programs to improve teaching in such  
20          other fields as mathematics, science, history, reading  
21          and literature, performing arts and foreign lan-  
22          guages;

23          “(11) each year over 150,000 participants bene-  
24          fit from National Writing Project programs in 1 of

1       156 United States sites located in 46 States and the  
2       Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

3               “(12) the National Writing Project is a cost-ef-  
4       fective program and leverages over 6 dollars for  
5       every 1 Federal dollar.

6       “(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this part—

7               “(1) to support and promote the expansion of  
8       the National Writing Project network of sites so  
9       that teachers in every region of the United States  
10      will have access to a National Writing Project pro-  
11      gram;

12              “(2) to ensure the consistent high quality of the  
13      sites through ongoing review, evaluation and tech-  
14      nical assistance;

15              “(3) to support and promote the establishment  
16      of programs to disseminate effective practices and  
17      research findings about the teaching of writing; and

18              “(4) to coordinate activities assisted under this  
19      part with activities assisted under this Act.”.

20      (b) AUTHORIZATION.—Subsection (a) of section  
21      10992 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 8332(a)) is amended to  
22      read as follows:

23              “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary is authorized  
24      to make a grant to the National Writing Project (hereafter  
25      in this section referred to as the ‘grantee’), a nonprofit

1 educational organization that has as its primary purpose  
 2 the improvement of the quality of student writing and  
 3 learning, to improve the teaching and uses of writing to  
 4 learn in our Nation's classrooms.”.

5 (c) FEDERAL SHARE.—Paragraph (3) of section  
 6 10992(d) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 8332(d)) is amended to  
 7 read as follows:

8 “(3) MAXIMUM.—The Federal share of the  
 9 costs of teacher training programs conducted pursu-  
 10 ant to subsection (a) may not exceed \$100,000 for  
 11 any one contractor, or \$200,000 for a statewide pro-  
 12 gram administered by any one contractor in at least  
 13 five sites throughout the State.

14 (d) REPEAL OF CLASSROOM TEACHER GRANTS.—  
 15 Section 10992 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 8332) is amended—

16 (1) by repealing subsection (e);

17 (2) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), (h),  
 18 and (i) as subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h), respec-  
 19 tively; and

20 (3) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “(f)” and  
 21 inserting “(e)”; and

22 (4) in subsection (f)(2) (as redesignated by  
 23 paragraph (2)), by striking “(i)” and inserting  
 24 “(h)”.

1       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-  
2 section (h) of section 10992 of such Act (as redesignated  
3 by subsection (d)(2)) (20 U.S.C. 8332) is amended by  
4 striking “\$4,000,000 for fiscal year 1995” and inserting  
5 “\$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2000”.

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