

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1611

To authorize grants to local educational agencies for teacher mentoring programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2003

Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FROST, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. HOLT, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. EHLERS, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CASE, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. ENGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize grants to local educational agencies for teacher mentoring 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Teacher Mentoring
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) High-quality teaching is essential to improv-
2 ing the Nation’s educational system.

3 (2) High teacher turnover rates severely ham-
4 per the ability to create and maintain a high-quality
5 teaching and learning environment.

6 (3) Approximately one-third of the Nation’s
7 new teachers leave the teaching profession during
8 their first 3 years of teaching, and almost one-half
9 leave during their first 5 years of teaching.

10 (4) Turnover is highest in low-income schools,
11 where the turnover rate is almost one-third higher
12 than the corresponding rate for all teachers in all
13 schools.

14 (5) Teachers who have left the profession report
15 that better support for beginning teachers is among
16 the 5 top policy reforms that would help school sys-
17 tems retain more teachers.

18 (6) Teachers without mentoring programs have
19 been shown to leave the profession at a rate almost
20 70 percent higher than those with mentoring pro-
21 grams.

22 (7) It is in the best interest of the United
23 States to ensure that all students have access to a
24 high-quality education through the promotion of
25 mentoring programs that assist in the development

1 of highly qualified teachers, particularly in low-in-
2 come areas.

3 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR TEACHER MENTORING PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) GRANTS.—Part C of title II of the Elementary
5 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6671
6 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 **“Subpart 6—Teacher Mentoring Programs**

8 **“SEC. 2371. GRANT PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—For the purpose of pro-
10 viding guidance and assistance to new teachers and im-
11 proving teacher quality, the Secretary may award grants
12 on a competitive basis to local educational agencies to es-
13 tablish or implement teacher mentoring programs.

14 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may not award
15 a grant under this section to a local educational agency
16 unless the agency agrees to use the grant to establish or
17 implement a teacher mentoring program that—

18 “(1) will establish and implement minimum
19 qualifications for mentors;

20 “(2) will provide training and stipends for men-
21 tors;

22 “(3) will provide mentoring programs for teach-
23 ers in their first year of teaching;

24 “(4) will provide regular and ongoing opportu-
25 nities for mentors and mentees to observe each oth-

1 er’s teaching methods in classroom settings during
2 the school day;

3 “(5) will establish an evaluation and account-
4 ability plan for activities conducted under such grant
5 that includes rigorous objectives to measure the im-
6 pact of such activities; and

7 “(6) will report to the Secretary on an annual
8 basis regarding the agency’s progress in meeting the
9 objectives described in paragraph (5).

10 “(c) **LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS.**—The Secretary
11 may not award a grant under this section to a local edu-
12 cational agency unless the agency agrees that, in estab-
13 lishing or implementing a teacher mentoring program with
14 the grant, the agency will prioritize funding for mentoring
15 activities at elementary and secondary schools which the
16 agency identifies under section 1116(b) as failing to make
17 adequate yearly progress.

18 “(d) **DURATION.**—Each grant awarded under this
19 section shall be for a period of 3 years.

20 **“SEC. 2372. LOW-INCOME LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.**

21 “(a) **PRIORITY.**—Of the grants awarded under sec-
22 tion 2371 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall award
23 not less than 50 percent of such grants to low-income local
24 educational agencies.

1 “(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
2 term ‘low-income local educational agency’ means a local
3 educational agency for which—

4 “(1) not less than 30 percent of the children
5 served by the agency are from families with incomes
6 below the poverty line; and

7 “(2)(A) there is a high percentage of out-of-
8 field teachers (as that term is defined at section
9 2102);

10 “(B) the number or percentage of unfilled
11 teaching positions at the schools served by such
12 agency is higher than the corresponding number or
13 percentage for not less than 75 percent of all the
14 local educational agencies in the State; or

15 “(C) there is a high teacher turnover rate.

16 **“SEC. 2373. EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.**

17 “‘In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary
18 should seek to ensure an equitable geographic distribution
19 among the regions of the United States and among local
20 educational agencies located in urban, rural, and suburban
21 areas.

22 **“SEC. 2374. APPLICATION.**

23 “‘To seek a grant under this section, a local edu-
24 cational agency shall, at such time and in such manner

1 as the Secretary may require, submit an application to the
2 Secretary containing the following:

3 “(1) A plan for establishing a mentor program
4 described in this subpart.

5 “(2) A description of how the activities to be
6 carried out under the program will improve new
7 teacher experiences and increase teacher retention
8 rates.

9 “(3) A description of the research on teacher
10 mentoring that is the basis for the plan.

11 “(4) A description of the evaluation and ac-
12 countability plan to be established.

13 “(5) Such other information as the Secretary
14 may require.

15 **“SEC. 2375. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
17 this subpart such sums as may be necessary for each of
18 fiscal years 2004 through 2009.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
20 tents at section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
21 cation Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item
22 relating to section 2368 the following:

“Subpart 6—Teacher Mentoring Programs

“Sec. 2371. Grant program.

“Sec. 2372. Low-income local educational agencies.

“Sec. 2373. Equitable distribution.

“Sec. 2374. Application.

“Sec. 2375. Authorization of appropriations.”.

1 (c) REPORT.—Not less than 3 years after the date
2 of the first award of a grant under the program estab-
3 lished by the amendments made by this section, the Sec-
4 retary of Education shall submit a report to the Congress
5 on the results of such program, including the impact of
6 mentoring programs assisted under this Act on teacher re-
7 tention rates.

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