

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2538

To provide a grant program to support the establishment and operation
of Teachers Institutes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 17, 2004

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. DODD) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-
cation, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide a grant program to support the establishment
and operation of Teachers Institutes.

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. TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN-**
4 **STITUTES.**

5 Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
6 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
7 the following:

“PART C—TEACHER PROFESSIONAL

DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES

“SEC. 241. SHORT TITLE.

“This part may be cited as the ‘Teacher Professional Development Institutes Act’.

“SEC. 242. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

“(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

“(1) The ongoing professional development of teachers in the subjects the teachers teach is essential for improved student learning.

“(2) Attaining the goal of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, of having a teacher who is highly qualified in every core subject classroom, will require innovative and effective approaches to improving the quality of teaching.

“(3) The Teachers Institute Model is an innovative approach that encourages a collaboration between urban school teachers and university faculty. The Teachers Institute Model focuses on the continuing academic preparation of school teachers and the application of what the teachers study to their classrooms and potentially to the classrooms of other teachers.

“(4) The Teachers Institute Model has also been successfully demonstrated over a 3-year period

1 in a National Demonstration Project (hereafter in
 2 this part referred to as the ‘National Demonstration
 3 Project’) in several cities.

4 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this part is to pro-
 5 vide Federal assistance to support the establishment and
 6 operation of Teachers Institutes for local educational
 7 agencies that serve significant low-income populations in
 8 States throughout the Nation—

9 “(1) to improve student learning; and

10 “(2) to enhance the quality of teaching by
 11 strengthening the subject matter mastery of current
 12 teachers through continuing teacher preparation.

13 **“SEC. 243. DEFINITIONS.**

14 “In this part:

15 “(1) POVERTY LINE.—The term ‘poverty line’
 16 means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of
 17 Management and Budget, and revised annually in
 18 accordance with section 673(2) of the Community
 19 Services Block Grant Act) applicable to a family of
 20 the size involved.

21 “(2) SIGNIFICANT LOW-INCOME POPULATION.—
 22 The term ‘significant low-income population’ means
 23 a student population of which not less than 25 per-
 24 cent are from families with incomes below the pov-
 25 erty line.

1 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
2 the several States of the United States, the District
3 of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

4 “(4) TEACHERS INSTITUTE.—The term ‘Teach-
5 ers Institute’ means a partnership or joint venture
6 between or among 1 or more institutions of higher
7 education, and 1 or more local educational agencies
8 serving a significant low-income population, which
9 partnership or joint venture—

10 “(A) is entered into for the purpose of im-
11 proving the quality of teaching and learning
12 through collaborative seminars designed to en-
13 hance both the subject matter and the peda-
14 gogical resources of the seminar participants;
15 and

16 “(B) works in collaboration to determine
17 the direction and content of the collaborative
18 seminars.

19 **“SEC. 244. GRANT AUTHORITY.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized—

21 “(1) to award grants to Teachers Institutes to
22 encourage the establishment and operation of Teach-
23 ers Institutes; and

24 “(2) to provide technical assistance, either di-
25 rectly or through existing Teachers Institutes, to as-

1 sist local educational agencies and institutions of
2 higher education in preparing to establish and in op-
3 erating Teachers Institutes.

4 “(b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting a Teachers
5 Institute for a grant under this part, the Secretary shall
6 consider—

7 “(1) the extent to which the proposed Teachers
8 Institute will serve a community with a significant
9 low-income population;

10 “(2) the extent to which the proposed Teachers
11 Institute will follow the Understandings and Nec-
12 essary Procedures that have been developed fol-
13 lowing the National Demonstration Project;

14 “(3) the extent to which the local educational
15 agency participating in the proposed Teachers Insti-
16 tute has a high percentage of teachers who are un-
17 prepared or under prepared to teach the core aca-
18 demic subjects the teachers are assigned to teach;
19 and

20 “(4) the extent to which the proposed Teachers
21 Institute will receive a level of support from the
22 community and other sources that will ensure the
23 requisite long-term commitment for the success of a
24 Teachers Institute.

25 “(c) CONSULTATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating applications
2 under subsection (b), the Secretary may request the
3 advice and assistance of existing Teachers Institutes.

4 “(2) STATE AGENCIES.—If the Secretary re-
5 ceives 2 or more applications for new Teachers Insti-
6 tutes that propose serving the same State, the Sec-
7 retary shall consult with the State educational agen-
8 cy regarding the applications.

9 “(d) FISCAL AGENT.—For the purpose of this part,
10 an institution of higher education participating in a
11 Teachers Institute shall serve as the fiscal agent for the
12 receipt of grant funds under this part.

13 “(e) LIMITATIONS.—A grant under this part—

14 “(1) shall be awarded for a period not to exceed
15 5 years; and

16 “(2) shall not exceed 50 percent of the total
17 costs of the eligible activities, as determined by the
18 Secretary.

19 **“SEC. 245. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Grant funds awarded under this
21 part may be used—

22 “(1) for the planning and development of appli-
23 cations for the establishment of Teachers Institutes;

1 “(2) to provide assistance to the Teachers Insti-
 2 tutes established during the National Demonstration
 3 Project to enable the Teachers Institutes—

4 “(A) to develop further the Teachers Insti-
 5 tutes; or

6 “(B) to support the planning and develop-
 7 ment of applications for new Teachers Insti-
 8 tutes;

9 “(3) for the salary and necessary expenses of a
 10 full-time director to plan and manage the Teachers
 11 Institute and to act as liaison between the local edu-
 12 cational agency and the institution of higher edu-
 13 cation participating in the Teachers Institute;

14 “(4) to provide suitable office space, staff,
 15 equipment, and supplies, and to pay other operating
 16 expenses, for the Teachers Institute;

17 “(5) to provide a stipend for teachers partici-
 18 pating in collaborative seminars in the sciences and
 19 humanities, and to provide remuneration for those
 20 members of the faculty of the institution of higher
 21 education participating in the Teachers Institute
 22 who lead the seminars; and

23 “(6) to provide for the dissemination through
 24 print and electronic means of curriculum units pre-

1 pared in the seminars conducted by the Teachers In-
 2 stitute.

3 “(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
 4 use not more than 50 percent of the funds appropriated
 5 to carry out this part to provide technical assistance to
 6 facilitate the establishment and operation of Teachers In-
 7 stitutes. For the purpose of this subsection, the Secretary
 8 may contract with existing Teachers Institutes to provide
 9 all or a part of the technical assistance under this sub-
 10 section.

11 **“SEC. 246. APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND AGREEMENT.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this
 13 part, a Teachers Institute shall submit an application to
 14 the Secretary that—

15 “(1) meets the requirement of this part and any
 16 regulations under this part;

17 “(2) includes a description of how the Teachers
 18 Institute intends to use funds provided under the
 19 grant;

20 “(3) includes such information as the Secretary
 21 may require to apply the criteria described in section
 22 244(b);

23 “(4) includes measurable objectives for the use
 24 of the funds provided under the grant; and

1 “(5) contains such other information and assur-
 2 ances as the Secretary may require.

3 “(b) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—

4 “(1) promptly evaluate an application received
 5 for a grant under this part; and

6 “(2) notify the applicant within 90 days of the
 7 receipt of a completed application of the Secretary’s
 8 approval or disapproval of the application.

9 “(c) AGREEMENT.—Upon approval of an application,
 10 the Secretary and the Teachers Institute shall enter into
 11 a comprehensive agreement covering the entire period of
 12 the grant.

13 **“SEC. 247. REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.**

14 “(a) REPORT.—Each Teachers Institute receiving a
 15 grant under this part shall report annually on the progress
 16 of the Teachers Institute in achieving the purpose of this
 17 part and the purposes of the grant.

18 “(b) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—

19 “(1) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall evalu-
 20 ate the activities funded under this part and submit
 21 an annual report regarding the activities to the
 22 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
 23 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Education
 24 and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.

1 “(2) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall
 2 broadly disseminate successful practices developed
 3 by Teachers Institutes.

4 “(c) REVOCATION.—If the Secretary determines that
 5 a Teachers Institute is not making substantial progress
 6 in achieving the purpose of this part and the purposes of
 7 the grant by the end of the second year of the grant under
 8 this part, the Secretary may take appropriate action, in-
 9 cluding revocation of further payments under the grant,
 10 to ensure that the funds available under this part are used
 11 in the most effective manner.

12 **“SEC. 248. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 14 this part—

- 15 “(1) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;
- 16 “(2) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
- 17 “(3) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
- 18 “(4) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and
- 19 “(5) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.”.

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