

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2625

To establish a national demonstration project to improve intervention programs for the most disadvantaged children and youth, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 8, 2004

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

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## A BILL

To establish a national demonstration project to improve intervention programs for the most disadvantaged children and youth, and for other purposes.

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 “Friends of the Children  
5       National Demonstration Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

1           (1) the single most important protective factor  
2           in a child’s life is a long-term relationship with a  
3           supportive, caring adult;

4           (2) while the most disadvantaged children can  
5           be accurately identified as early as age 5, very few  
6           long-term intervention programs are initiated at this  
7           age;

8           (3) no Federal competitive grant or contract  
9           program exists to fund innovative programs match-  
10          ing the most disadvantaged children beginning at  
11          age 5 with “professional mentors” for 10 years or  
12          more;

13          (4) privately-funded programs matching “pro-  
14          fessional mentors” with the most disadvantaged chil-  
15          dren beginning at an early age for the child and  
16          lasting for 10 years or more, show great promise in  
17          benefitting the most disadvantaged children and  
18          youth; and

19          (5) violent juvenile crime is a national problem,  
20          and the most disadvantaged children and youth need  
21          support specifically targeted to help them from be-  
22          coming involved in, or a victim of, violent juvenile  
23          crime.

24   **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

25          The purposes of this Act are as follows:

1           (1) To establish a national demonstration  
2 project to promote learning about successful early  
3 and sustained childhood interventions, with pro-  
4 grams carried out by Friends of the Children local  
5 chapters, by employing and measuring an effective  
6 approach for improving the lives and future pros-  
7 pects of the most disadvantaged children and youth.

8           (2) To demonstrate an effective early interven-  
9 tion program that serves the most disadvantaged  
10 children and youth through private/public partner-  
11 ships to prevent the need for costly incarceration, re-  
12 habilitation, and treatment at a later date.

13           (3) To document best practices for conducting  
14 a successful early intervention for the most dis-  
15 advantaged children and youth, based on the results  
16 of Friends of the Children local chapters.

17           (4) To produce lessons and data from the oper-  
18 ating experiences of those Friends of the Children  
19 local chapters that will provide information to im-  
20 prove policy in the public and private sectors.

21 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

22           (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available to  
23 carry out this Act, the Attorney General shall carry out  
24 a demonstration project under which the Attorney General  
25 makes a grant to Friends of the Children, National Office,

1 to be subgranted by such office to Friends of the Children  
 2 local chapters to pay for the Federal share of the cost of  
 3 carrying out early intervention programs under this Act.

4 (b) ELIGIBLE LOCAL CHAPTERS.—Friends of the  
 5 Children local chapters serving the following cities are eli-  
 6 gible to participate in the demonstration project:

- 7 (1) Chester, Pennsylvania.
- 8 (2) Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 9 (3) Eugene, Oregon.
- 10 (4) Klamath Falls, Oregon.
- 11 (5) New York, New York.
- 12 (6) Portland, Oregon.
- 13 (7) Salem, Oregon.
- 14 (8) San Francisco, California.
- 15 (9) Seattle, Washington.
- 16 (10) Wilmington, Delaware.
- 17 (11) Boston, Massachusetts.

18 (c) FEDERAL SHARE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the  
 20 cost referred to in subsection (a) may not exceed 75  
 21 percent.

22 (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal  
 23 share of such cost may be provided in cash or in-  
 24 kind.

1 **SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
 3 subgrant under this Act, a Friends of the Children local  
 4 chapter serving a city referred to in section 4(b) shall sub-  
 5 mit an application to Friends of the Children, National  
 6 Office, at such time, in such manner, and containing such  
 7 information as Friends of the Children, National Office  
 8 may require.

9 (b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In making subgrants  
 10 under this Act, Friends of the Children, National Office,  
 11 shall consider the ability of the Friends of the Children  
 12 local chapter—

13 (1) to implement an early intervention program  
 14 for the most disadvantaged children and youth;

15 (2) to identify and target the most disadvan-  
 16 tagged children and youth through a three-tiered  
 17 process of identifying the children including—

18 (A) several weeks of classroom (either kin-  
 19 dergarten or first grade) observation;

20 (B) assessment forms completed by the  
 21 classroom teachers and other relevant school  
 22 staff; and

23 (C) a closed session with elementary school  
 24 teachers, family, counselors, and administra-  
 25 tors; and

1           (3) to participate in an evidence-based evalua-  
 2           tion of the early intervention program for the most  
 3           disadvantaged children and youth.

4 **SEC. 6. USES OF FUNDS.**

5           (a) PROGRAMS.—

6           (1) CORE FEATURES.—A Friends of the Chil-  
 7           dren local chapter that receives a subgrant under  
 8           this Act shall use some or all of the subgrant  
 9           amounts to carry out an early intervention program  
 10          with the following core features:

11           (A) TARGET GROUP.—The program shall  
 12           target children between the ages of 5 and 7  
 13           years old for initial enrollment who—

14                   (i) are at most risk of—

15                           (I) abuse and neglect;

16                           (II) school failure;

17                           (III) juvenile delinquency and  
 18                           gang and drug involvement; and

19                           (IV) teen pregnancy; and

20                   (ii) are unlikely to develop any form  
 21                   of resiliency without intensive, long-term  
 22                   intervention; and

23                   (iii) as adults, are likely to have prob-  
 24                   lems with mental illness, substance abuse,  
 25                   and the criminal justice system.

1 (B) PROFESSIONAL MENTORS.—The pro-  
2 gram shall make significant use of professional  
3 adult role models to serve no more than eight  
4 children through one-on-one relationships on a  
5 weekly basis for approximately 12 years.

6 (C) LONG-TERM INVOLVEMENT.—Profes-  
7 sional mentors will engage each child one-on-  
8 one on a weekly basis for approximately 12  
9 years

10 (2) PERMISSIBLE SERVICES.—The Friends of  
11 the Children local chapter may use some of the  
12 subgrant amounts to secure training and technical  
13 assistance from the Friends of the Children National  
14 Office to build its infrastructure to improve its ca-  
15 pacity to service youth.

16 (b) EVALUATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—  
17 Friends of the Children National Office shall use grant  
18 amounts under this Act to—

19 (1) prepare and implement an evaluation design  
20 for evaluating the Friends of the Children local  
21 chapters that receive subgrants under this Act;

22 (2) conduct annual evaluations of the perform-  
23 ance and progress of the early intervention programs  
24 under this Act;

1           (3) provide training and technical assistance to  
2           the Friends of the Children local chapters, based on  
3           such annual evaluations;

4           (4) prepare and submit to the Attorney General  
5           a report that describes the activities of such pro-  
6           grams and the results of such evaluations; and

7           (5) disseminate information and results gen-  
8           erated from the operation of the demonstration  
9           project and the resulting evaluation with policy mak-  
10          ers in the public and private sectors.

11 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12          There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attor-  
13          ney General to carry out this Act \$7,500,000 for each of  
14          the fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

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