

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2888

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a scholarship program to encourage and support students who have contributed substantial public services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5, 2004

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a scholarship program to encourage and support students who have contributed substantial public services.

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 “Youth Service Scholar-
5 ship Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) young people under 18 years of age are now
9 our Nation’s most impoverished age group, with 1 of

1 every 5 living in poverty, a higher proportion than
2 in 1968, and the percentage of minority children liv-
3 ing in poverty is about twice as high;

4 (2) more than 1 of 4 families is headed by a
5 single parent and the percentage of such families
6 has risen steadily over the past few decades, rising
7 13 percent since 1990;

8 (3) there is a need to engage youth as active
9 participants in decisionmaking that affects their
10 lives, including in the design, development, imple-
11 mentation, and evaluation of youth development pro-
12 grams at the Federal, State, and community levels;

13 (4) existing outcome driven youth development
14 strategies, pioneered by community-based organiza-
15 tions, hold real promise for promoting positive be-
16 haviors and preventing youth problems;

17 (5) formal evaluations of youth development
18 programs have documented significant reductions in
19 drug and alcohol use, school misbehavior, aggressive
20 behavior, violence, truancy, high-risk sexual behav-
21 ior, and smoking;

22 (6) compared to youth in the United States
23 generally, youth participating in community-based
24 organizations are more than 26 percent more likely
25 to report having received recognition for good grades

1 than youth in the United States generally and nearly
 2 20 percent more likely to rate the likelihood of their
 3 going to college as very high; and

4 (7) the availability and use of Federal resources
 5 can be an effective incentive to leverage broader
 6 community support to enable local programs, activi-
 7 ties, and services to provide the full array of develop-
 8 mental core resources, remove barriers to access,
 9 promote program effectiveness, and facilitate coordi-
 10 nation and collaboration within the community.

11 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

12 Subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher Edu-
 13 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11 et seq.) is
 14 amended—

15 (1) by redesignating section 407E as section
 16 406E; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following:

18 **“Chapter 4—Public Service Incentives**

19 **“SEC. 407A. PURPOSE.**

20 “The purpose of this chapter is to establish a scholar-
 21 ship program to reward low-income students who have,
 22 during high school, and who continue, during college, to
 23 make significant public service contributions to their com-
 24 munities.

1 **“SEC. 407B. SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED.**

2 “(a) QUALIFICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—The
3 Secretary is authorized to award a scholarship to enable
4 a student to pay the cost of attendance at an institution
5 of higher education during the student’s first 4 academic
6 years of undergraduate education, if the student—

7 “(1) in order to be eligible for the first year of
8 such scholarship, performed not less than 300 hours
9 of qualifying public service during each of 2 aca-
10 demic years of the student’s secondary school enroll-
11 ment;

12 “(2) in order to be eligible for the second or
13 any subsequent year of such scholarship, performed
14 not less than 300 hours of qualifying public service
15 during the academic year of postsecondary school at-
16 tendance preceding the academic year for which the
17 student seeks such scholarship;

18 “(3) was eligible for a free or reduced price
19 lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School
20 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.);

21 “(4) is eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants
22 for the year in which the scholarships are awarded,
23 except that a student shall not be required to comply
24 or verify compliance with section 484(a)(5) for pur-
25 poses of receiving a scholarship under this chapter;
26 and

1 “(5) otherwise demonstrates compliance with
2 regulations prescribed by the Secretary under sec-
3 tion 407G.

4 “(b) DEFINITION OF QUALIFYING PUBLIC SERV-
5 ICE.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term ‘qualifying
6 public service’ means service that would be eligible for
7 treatment as community service under the National and
8 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.)
9 or under the Federal work-study program under part C.

10 **“SEC. 407C. AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP.**

11 “(a) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
13 graph (2) and subsection (b), the amount of a schol-
14 arship awarded under this chapter for any academic
15 year shall be equal to \$5,000.

16 “(2) ADJUSTMENT FOR INSUFFICIENT APPRO-
17 PRIATIONS.—If, after the Secretary determines the
18 total number of students selected under section
19 407D for an academic year, funds available to carry
20 out this chapter for the academic year are insuffi-
21 cient to fully fund all awards under this chapter for
22 the academic year, the amount of the scholarship
23 paid to each student under this chapter shall be re-
24 duced proportionately.

1 “(b) ASSISTANCE NOT TO EXCEED COST OF AT-
 2 TENDANCE.—A scholarship awarded under this chapter to
 3 any student, in combination with the Federal Pell Grant
 4 assistance and other student financial assistance available
 5 to such student, may not exceed the student’s cost of at-
 6 tendance.

7 **“SEC. 407D. SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.**

8 “The Secretary shall designate a panel to select stu-
 9 dents for the award of scholarships under this chapter.
 10 Such panel shall be composed of 9 individuals who are
 11 selected by the Secretary and shall be composed of equal
 12 numbers of youths, community representatives, and teach-
 13 ers. The Secretary shall ensure that no individual assigned
 14 under this section to review any application has any con-
 15 flict of interest with regard to the application that might
 16 impair the impartiality with which the individual conducts
 17 the review under this section.

18 **“SEC. 407E. APPLICATIONS.**

19 “Any eligible student desiring to obtain a scholarship
 20 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
 21 cation at such time, in such manner, and containing such
 22 information or assurances as the Secretary may require.
 23 Such application shall—

24 “(1) demonstrate that the eligible student is
 25 maintaining satisfactory academic progress and is

1 achieving a grade point average of at least 2.0 (on
2 a scale of 4), or its equivalent;

3 “(2) include a recommendation from—

4 “(A) the supervisor of the community serv-
5 ice project of the applicant; and

6 “(B) another individual not related to, but
7 familiar with the character of the applicant
8 such as a teacher, coach, or employer; and

9 “(3) include an essay by the applicant on the
10 nature of the community service performed by the
11 applicant.

12 **“SEC. 407F. PROGRAM DISSEMINATION AND PROMOTION.**

13 “(a) DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION.—The
14 Secretary shall develop and disseminate to the public in-
15 formation on the availability of, and application process
16 for, scholarships under this chapter.

17 “(b) PROMOTION.—In disseminating information
18 about the scholarship program under this chapter, the
19 Secretary shall—

20 “(1) disseminate such information directly or
21 through arrangements with local educational agen-
22 cies, public and private elementary schools and sec-
23 ondary schools, nonprofit organizations, consumer
24 groups, Federal, State, or local agencies, and the
25 media; and

1 “(2) at a minimum, include a description and
 2 the purpose of the scholarship program, an expla-
 3 nation of how to obtain an application, and a de-
 4 scription of the application process and procedures.

5 **“SEC. 407G. REGULATIONS.**

6 “The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as
 7 may be necessary to carry out this chapter.

8 **“SEC. 407H. EVALUATION.**

9 “Not earlier than 2 years after the first fiscal year
 10 for which funds are made available under this chapter, the
 11 Secretary shall prepare and submit to Congress an evalua-
 12 tion of the effectiveness of the program under this chapter.
 13 Such evaluation shall include—

14 “(1) an evaluation of the demand, by grade
 15 level and types of community service sites, for the
 16 scholarships provided under this chapter;

17 “(2) general data on the background of pro-
 18 gram participants and the types of service per-
 19 formed; and

20 “(3) an itemization of the costs of admin-
 21 istering the program under this chapter.

22 **“SEC. 407I. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 24 this chapter \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2005 and such

1 sums as are necessary for each of the 3 succeeding fiscal
2 years.”.

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