

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1876

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, and Mr. CHABOT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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 benefiting 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 subsection (b) shall
5 submit 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 taged 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 (and may
18 use grant amounts under this Act, without regard to the
19 limitation set forth in (c)(2) of this section, to)—

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

23 (2) conduct annual evaluations of the perform-
24 ance and progress of the early intervention programs
25 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 2006 through 2010.

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