

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4773

To direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to States and local educational agencies to establish teacher mentoring programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to States and local educational agencies to establish 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 “Preparing Excellent
5 Teachers Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The shortage of qualified teachers in the
9 United States has reached critical levels.

1 (2) Education experts predict that over the next
2 decade, the United States will need more than 2 mil-
3 lion new teachers.

4 (3) In urban districts, nearly 50 percent of new
5 teachers leave teaching during their first five years.

6 (4) These numbers have a direct impact on the
7 quality of the education of the children of the United
8 States.

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

10 (a) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**—The Secretary
11 of Education may make grants in accordance with sub-
12 sections (d) and (e) to States and local educational agen-
13 cies to assist such States and agencies, in cooperation with
14 universities and colleges in accordance with subsection (b),
15 to establish and support teacher mentoring programs in
16 schools for the purpose of attracting and training teachers
17 of exceptional ability who are mid-career professionals or
18 recent college graduates.

19 (b) **ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM.**—To
20 be eligible to participate in a teacher mentoring program
21 under this section, a mid-career professional or recent col-
22 lege graduate shall be enrolled in a masters degree pro-
23 gram in education or teaching in a university or college
24 that—

1 (1) has entered into a written agreement relat-
2 ing to such program with the State or local edu-
3 cational agency that is the recipient of a grant under
4 this section;

5 (2) is located in such State or local educational
6 agency; and

7 (3) is accredited by the Council of Higher Edu-
8 cation Accreditation and the accrediting agency in
9 the State, if any.

10 (c) PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—A mid-career professional or
12 recent college graduate who participates in a teacher
13 mentoring program shall, under the supervision of
14 an experienced mentor teacher, complete not fewer
15 than ten months teaching a class containing not
16 more than 30 students and not fewer than 10 stu-
17 dents in a school chosen by the State or local edu-
18 cational agency that is the recipient of a grant under
19 this section.

20 (2) EXPERIENCED MENTOR TEACHER DE-
21 FINED.—In this subsection, the term “experienced
22 mentor teacher” means a teacher who—

23 (A) has at least five years teaching experi-
24 ence teaching in a school in the State or local

1 educational agency that is the recipient of a
2 grant under this section; and

3 (B) has a masters degree in education or
4 teaching.

5 (d) TEACHER CERTIFICATION.—As a condition of re-
6 ceiving a grant under this section, a university or college
7 shall award to a mid-career professional or recent college
8 graduate who successfully completes a teacher mentoring
9 program a teacher certification that is valid in the State
10 or local educational agency in which such university or col-
11 lege is located.

12 (e) AMOUNT, NUMBER, AND DISTRIBUTION OF
13 GRANTS.—

14 (1) AMOUNT.—A grant under this section shall
15 be in an amount that is 50 percent of the cost of
16 establishing and supporting a teacher mentoring
17 program in a State or local educational agency, but
18 such grant may not exceed \$2,500,000.

19 (2) NUMBER.—The Secretary may not make
20 more than ten such grants each fiscal year, begin-
21 ning with fiscal year 2007.

22 (3) DISTRIBUTION.—A State or local edu-
23 cational agency may receive not more than two
24 grants each fiscal year.

1 (f) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—A teacher mentoring
2 program under this section shall be for a period of one
3 academic year.

4 (g) AGREEMENT WITH TEACHERS FOR PLACEMENT
5 IN A SCHOOL.—A mid-career professional or recent college
6 graduate who successfully completes a teacher mentoring
7 program under this section shall agree in writing to place-
8 ment as a teacher in a school chosen by the State or local
9 educational agency. Such placement shall be for a period
10 of five academic years beginning with the academic year
11 that begins after the successful completion by such profes-
12 sional or graduate in the teacher mentoring program.

13 (h) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this sec-
14 tion, a State or local educational agency shall submit to
15 the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,
16 and containing such information as the Secretary may
17 prescribe.

18 (i) COMPETITIVE BASIS FOR SELECTION.—The Sec-
19 retary shall award grants to States and local educational
20 agencies on a competitive basis.

21 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
23 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011
24 to carry out this section. Amounts appropriated are au-
25 thorized to remain available until expended, and may be

1 used by the Secretary to make additional grants, in ac-
2 cordance with this section, in a fiscal year beginning with
3 fiscal year 2012.

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