

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1828

To establish a national teaching fellowship program to encourage individuals to enter and remain in the field of teaching at public schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2007

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. NADLER, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. COHEN, Mr. WATT, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. SHULER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To establish a national teaching fellowship program to encourage individuals to enter and remain in the field of teaching at public schools.

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 “Teaching Fellows Act
5 of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The United States faces an increasing need
2 for high-quality educators.

3 (2) Up to 1,000,000 of the country's 3,000,000
4 teachers will retire in the next 5 years. Schools in
5 the United States will have to hire 2,200,000 teach-
6 ers by 2010.

7 (3) The Congress desires to inspire promising
8 high school seniors and accomplished persons cur-
9 rently involved in the field of education to become
10 certified teachers.

11 (4) The opportunity created by a fellowship
12 program would allow persons in the field of edu-
13 cation the financial opportunity to obtain a quality
14 education which they would use to teach America's
15 youth.

16 (5) The Congress desires to motivate those who
17 go into the field of teaching to become career edu-
18 cators.

19 (6) Many paraprofessionals have received their
20 training at community colleges and have the poten-
21 tial and desire to obtain degrees in education and
22 certification as teachers.

23 (7) Rural and inner-city communities could
24 greatly benefit from encouraging those in the com-
25 munity who already have an interest in teaching to

1 pursue a degree in education and become career
2 educators.

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

4 Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
5 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating Part B as Part C; and

7 (2) by inserting after Part A the following new
8 part:

9 **“PART B—TEACHING AND PARTNERSHIP**

10 **FELLOWS**

11 **“SEC. 211. STATE TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM.**

12 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to en-
13 courage promising high school seniors and undergraduate
14 students to enter the field of teaching and become career
15 educators.

16 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE TEACHING FEL-
17 LOWS PROGRAM.—

18 “(1) USE OF FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—

19 From the funds appropriated under subsection (h),
20 the Secretary shall make grants available to States
21 for the purpose of establishing State Teaching Fel-
22 lows Programs to provide scholarships for Teaching
23 Fellows. Such scholarships shall be used to pay for
24 tuition, fees, and other costs of attendance at insti-

1 tutions of higher education incurred by such Teach-
2 ing Fellows.

3 “(2) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS.—Scholarships to
4 Teaching Fellows made available under this section
5 shall be no less than \$6,500 per year—

6 “(A) for each of 4 years of undergraduate
7 education, in the case of a Teaching Fellow
8 who, at the time of application, was a high
9 school senior;

10 “(B) for the third and fourth year of un-
11 dergraduate education, in the case of a Teach-
12 ing Fellow who, at the time of application, was
13 in the second year of undergraduate education;
14 and

15 “(C) for a fifth year of undergraduate edu-
16 cation, in the case of a Teaching Fellow de-
17 scribed in subparagraph (A) or (B), if such
18 year is required in order to obtain a bachelor’s
19 degree with a State license or certificate to
20 teach.

21 “(3) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—Teaching Fel-
22 lows shall be selected from individuals who—

23 “(A) at the time of application, are high
24 school seniors or are in the second academic
25 year of a program of undergraduate education

1 at a two- or four-year degree-granting institu-
2 tion of higher education;

3 “(B) are United States citizens or aliens
4 lawfully residing in the United States (other
5 than as a nonimmigrant);

6 “(C) are residents of the State sponsoring
7 the State Teaching Fellows Program to which
8 they are applying;

9 “(D) meet the criteria established under
10 subsection (c)(2)(C); and

11 “(E) enter into a written agreement with
12 the State agency to fulfill the service require-
13 ment under subsection (e) in exchange for re-
14 ceipt of the scholarship made available under
15 this section.

16 “(c) COMPETITION FOR FEDERAL FUNDS.—

17 “(1) ADMINISTRATION OF STATE PROGRAM.—

18 The governor (or chief executive officer) of each
19 State desiring to participate in the State Teaching
20 Fellows Program shall designate a single State agen-
21 cy to administer the State Teaching Fellows Pro-
22 gram. Such State agency shall have a full-time staff
23 and may be a division of the State’s education de-
24 partment, a coordinating or governing board of high-

1 er education, an independent government agency, or
2 a non-profit organization.

3 “(2) APPLICATION.—A State agency designated
4 under paragraph (1) shall submit an application to
5 the Secretary at such time, in such a manner, and
6 containing such information, as the Secretary may
7 require. Such application shall—

8 “(A) identify the private and public insti-
9 tutions of higher education within the State
10 that will participate in the State Teaching Fel-
11 lows Program;

12 “(B) describe any step the State agency
13 will take to encourage the involvement of His-
14 panic Serving Institutions and Historically
15 Black Colleges and Universities in such pro-
16 gram;

17 “(C) describe the specific, rigorous criteria
18 to be used in selecting Teaching Fellows;

19 “(D) describe the procedures the State
20 agency will use for the distribution of scholar-
21 ships and administration of service obligation
22 oversight;

23 “(E) provide assurances that each partici-
24 pating institution will be required to provide a
25 full-time faculty member or administrator to

1 serve as the State Teaching Fellows Program
2 director at that institution, and to work closely
3 with the State agency to administer the campus
4 program and to create and execute the manda-
5 tory extracurricular enrichment programs and
6 activities required by subparagraph (F); and

7 “(F) describe the mandatory extra-
8 curricular enrichment programs and activities
9 that will be part of such program that—

10 “(i) are designed to motivate Teach-
11 ing Fellows to become career educators;

12 “(ii) provide Teaching Fellows with a
13 multidisciplinary education;

14 “(iii) are offered regularly during each
15 year of schooling (including during inter-
16 vals between periods of enrollment); and

17 “(iv) expose Teaching Fellows to the
18 business, political, demographic, cultural,
19 and economic climates of the State, and
20 help Teaching Fellows develop leadership
21 qualities.

22 “(3) COMPETITIVE SELECTION.—From the ap-
23 plications submitted by State agencies designated
24 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall approve
25 those applications that the Secretary determines to

1 be the most promising in carrying out the purposes
2 of the State Teaching Fellows Program. Each such
3 State agency whose application is selected by the
4 Secretary to participate in the State Teaching Fel-
5 lows Program shall receive funds to offer scholar-
6 ships under this section. The Secretary shall deter-
7 mine the amount of funds to award to each such
8 State agency based on the amount of the total ap-
9 propriation for the State Teaching Fellows Program,
10 the relative size of the State's student population,
11 and the cost of administering a viable State Teach-
12 ing Fellows Program, as estimated by the Secretary.

13 “(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE RECEIPT OF FED-
14 ERAL FUNDS.—Each State participating in the State
15 Teaching Fellows Program shall provide assurances
16 that—

17 “(1) the State agency and participating institu-
18 tions shall, collectively, match the Federal funds pro-
19 vided under this section by providing at least 25 per-
20 cent of the total cost of the State Teaching Fellows
21 Program; and

22 “(2) funds received under this section will only
23 be used to supplement the amount of funds that
24 would, in the absence of such Federal funds, be
25 made available from non-Federal sources for the

1 purposes of this section, and not to supplant such
2 funds.

3 “(e) SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR TEACHING FEL-
4 LOWS.—Each individual selected as a Teaching Fellow
5 and receiving scholarship assistance under this section
6 shall, within 7 years after graduation—

7 “(1) teach for 4 qualifying years at one or more
8 public schools within the State that awarded such
9 scholarship; or

10 “(2) teach for 3 consecutive qualifying years
11 (unless the recipient takes leave of absence, ap-
12 proved by the State agency on a case-by-case basis),
13 at one or more public schools within such State that,
14 at the time the recipient accepts employment, the
15 local educational agency in which such school is lo-
16 cated has identified for school improvement under
17 section 1116(b) of the Elementary and Secondary
18 Education Act of 1965.

19 “(f) FAILURE TO MEET SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—

20 “(1) OBLIGATION TO REPAY.—The State agen-
21 cy administering the State Teaching Fellows Pro-
22 gram shall require that any Teaching Fellow who
23 fails to meet the service requirement under sub-
24 section (e) shall repay a pro rata amount, as deter-
25 mined by such State agency, of the scholarship re-

1 ceived from the State Teaching Fellows Program,
2 and to pay interest on such pro rata amount at an
3 annual rate of 10 percent until such pro rata
4 amount is repaid.

5 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
6 apply if the State agency finds that it is impossible
7 for the Teaching Fellow to meet the service require-
8 ment under subsection (e) because of the death or
9 permanent disability of the recipient.

10 “(3) REVOLVING FUNDING.—Any funds repaid
11 by a Teaching Fellow pursuant to paragraph (1), to-
12 gether with any interest thereon, may be retained by
13 the State agency for making available additional
14 scholarships under this section, and for paying costs
15 related to the disbursement of awards under this
16 section, and the collection of payments under para-
17 graph (1).

18 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

19 “(1) QUALIFIED YEAR.—The term ‘qualified
20 year’, with respect to the service required of a
21 Teaching Fellow under subsection (e), means an
22 academic year during which the Teaching Fellow
23 teaches a minimum of six full calendar months with-
24 in such academic year.

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

4 “(3) STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘State agency’
5 means the agency designated pursuant to subsection
6 (c)(1).

7 “(4) TEACHING FELLOWS.—The term ‘Teach-
8 ing Fellow’ means an individual selected for an
9 award of financial assistance under this section.

10 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may
13 be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

14 **“SEC. 212. PARTNERSHIP FELLOWS PROGRAM.**

15 “(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

16 “(1) to encourage members of the education
17 community, such as education-related paraprofes-
18 sionals and other school employees who are not yet
19 certified teachers, to obtain a bachelor’s degree with
20 a State license or certificate to teach; and

21 “(2) to encourage partnerships between associ-
22 ate’s degree-granting institutions and bachelor’s de-
23 gree-granting institutions to reduce and remove com-
24 mon barriers that prevent many individuals de-

1 scribed in paragraph (1) from completing such a de-
2 gree.

3 “(b) GRANTS FOR STATE PARTNERSHIP FELLOWS
4 PROGRAMS.—

5 “(1) USE OF FUNDS.—From the funds appro-
6 priated under subsection (f), the Secretary shall
7 make grants available to States for the purpose of
8 establishing State Partnership Fellows Programs
9 to—

10 “(A) support the creation and maintenance
11 of eligible partnerships; and

12 “(B) provide funds to eligible partnerships
13 to award scholarships to Partnership Fellows,
14 which shall be used to pay for tuition, fees, and
15 other costs of attendance incurred by Partner-
16 ship Fellows at institutions of higher education
17 that are members of such eligible partnerships.

18 “(2) STATE AGENCY TO ADMINISTER PRO-
19 GRAM.—The governor (or chief executive officer) of
20 each State desiring to receive a grant under this sec-
21 tion shall designate a single State agency to admin-
22 ister the State Partnership Fellows Program. Such
23 State agency shall have a full-time staff and may be
24 a division of the State’s education department, a co-
25 ordinating or governing board of higher education,

1 an independent government agency, or a non-profit
2 organization.

3 “(3) APPLICATION.—A State agency designated
4 under paragraph (2) shall submit an application to
5 the Secretary at such time, in such a manner, and
6 containing such information, as the Secretary may
7 require. Such application shall—

8 “(A) describe—

9 “(i) the process by which the State
10 agency solicited proposals from eligible
11 partnerships within the State for participa-
12 tion in the State Partnership Fellows Pro-
13 gram;

14 “(ii) any criteria used, in addition to
15 the criteria described in subsection (c), to
16 select from such proposals eligible partner-
17 ships to participate in the State Partner-
18 ship Fellows Program; and

19 “(iii) any steps taken by the State
20 agency to include the involvement of His-
21 panic Serving Institutions and Historically
22 Black Colleges and Universities in the
23 State Partnership Fellows Program;

24 “(B) provide a list of the eligible partner-
25 ships that have been selected for participation

1 in the State Partnership Fellows Program,
2 which shall include the names of the institu-
3 tions of higher education that comprise the
4 members of each such eligible partnership, and
5 the proposals submitted by each such eligible
6 partnership;

7 “(C) provide a detailed description of how
8 the funds provided through such grant shall be
9 allocated among eligible partnerships within the
10 State; and

11 “(D) provide assurances that—

12 “(i) not less than 25 percent of the
13 total cost of the State Partnership Fellows
14 Program shall be from non-Federal funds;

15 “(ii) the funds received under this sec-
16 tion shall only be used to supplement the
17 amount of funds that would, in the absence
18 of such Federal funds, be made available
19 from non-Federal sources for the purposes
20 of this section, and not to supplant such
21 funds; and

22 “(iii) not more than 20 percent of the
23 funds received under this section shall be
24 used for administrative costs to carry out
25 the State Partnership Fellows Program,

1 including funds made available to eligible
2 partnerships to—

3 “(I) support the creation and
4 maintenance of such partnerships;

5 “(II) sponsor the mandatory ex-
6 tracurricular enrichment programs
7 and activities for Partnership Fellows,
8 as required by subsection (c)(3); and

9 “(III) collect payments under
10 subsection (d)(4)(A).

11 “(4) COMPETITIVE SELECTION.—From applica-
12 tions submitted by State agencies for State Partner-
13 ship Fellows Program grants, the Secretary shall
14 award grants to those State agencies that the Sec-
15 retary determines, based on such applications, to be
16 the most promising in carrying out the purposes of
17 this section.

18 “(c) CRITERIA FOR PROPOSALS FROM ELIGIBLE
19 PARTNERSHIPS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under
20 this section, a State agency shall require each eligible part-
21 nership selected for participation in the State Partnership
22 Fellows Program to have submitted a proposal that—

23 “(1) identifies the specific, rigorous criteria to
24 be used by the eligible partnership to select Partner-
25 ship Fellows, including outstanding service to school-

1 age children, a firm commitment to the field of edu-
2 cation, and aptitude to succeed as a teacher;

3 “(2) designates a full-time faculty member or
4 administrator to serve as Partnership Fellows Pro-
5 gram director or coordinator for the eligible partner-
6 ship, who will work closely with the State agency to
7 administer the program and to create and execute
8 the mandatory extracurricular enrichment programs
9 and activities required by paragraph (3);

10 “(3) describes the mandatory extracurricular
11 enrichment programs and activities that will be part
12 of such program that—

13 “(A) are designed to motivate Partnership
14 Fellows to become career educators;

15 “(B) provide Partnership Fellows with a
16 multidisciplinary education;

17 “(C) are offered regularly during each year
18 of schooling (including during intervals between
19 periods of enrollment); and

20 “(D) expose Partnership Fellows to the
21 business, political, demographic, cultural, and
22 economic climates of the State, and help the
23 Partnership Fellows develop leadership quali-
24 ties;

1 “(4) specifically describes how the eligible part-
2 nership will provide Partnership Fellows in rural or
3 underserved communities access to the curriculum
4 and mandatory extracurricular enrichment programs
5 and activities created by the eligible partnership;

6 “(5) describes how the program will accommo-
7 date Partnership Fellows who maintain employment
8 while pursuing a degree, including any available dis-
9 tance learning methods, evening and weekend pro-
10 grams, minimum credit requirements, or other pro-
11 grams;

12 “(6) describes the circumstances in which, and
13 the amount with which, the eligible partnership will
14 assist Partnership Fellows during the period of stu-
15 dent teaching, in accordance with subsection
16 (d)(2)(C), should they be financially unable (as de-
17 termined by the State agency) to complete such pe-
18 riod of student teaching;

19 “(7) provides an itemized account of how the el-
20 igible partnership plans to use the funds received
21 under this section; and

22 “(8) provides assurances that scholarships to
23 Partnership Fellows will be administered in accord-
24 ance with the requirements of subsection (d).

1 “(d) PARTNERSHIP FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP ADMIN-
2 ISTRATION.—

3 “(1) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—Partnership
4 Fellows shall be selected by an eligible partnership
5 from individuals who—

6 “(A) are United States citizens or aliens
7 lawfully residing in the United States (other
8 than as a nonimmigrant);

9 “(B) are residents of the State sponsoring
10 the Partnership Fellows Program to which they
11 are applying;

12 “(C) are—

13 “(i) education-related paraprofes-
14 sionals, as such term is defined by the
15 State agency of such State; or

16 “(ii) enrolled in an associate’s degree-
17 granting institution;

18 “(D) meet the criteria established by the
19 eligible partnership under subsection (c)(1); and

20 “(E) enter into a written agreement with
21 the eligible partnership to fulfill the service re-
22 quirement under paragraph (3) in exchange for
23 receipt of the scholarship made available under
24 this section.

1 “(2) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS.—Scholarships to
2 Partnership Fellows made available under this sec-
3 tion—

4 “(A) in the case of a Partnership Fellow
5 attending an institution of higher education on
6 a full-time basis, as defined by the eligible part-
7 nership, shall be—

8 “(i) not less than \$6,500 per year;
9 and

10 “(ii) available for each year of under-
11 graduate education required to obtain a
12 bachelor’s degree with a State license or
13 certificate to teach that the Partnership
14 Fellow begins after being selected as a
15 Partnership Fellow, which may include a
16 fifth year of undergraduate education if a
17 fifth year is required to obtain a bachelor’s
18 degree with a State license or certificate to
19 teach;

20 “(B) in the case of a Partnership Fellow
21 attending an institution of higher education on
22 less than a full-time basis, as defined by the eli-
23 gible partnership, shall be—

24 “(i) the amount under subparagraph
25 (A)(i), reduced in proportion to the degree

1 to which that student is not so attending
2 on a full-time basis; and

3 “(ii) available for a period not to ex-
4 ceed six years; and

5 “(C) in the case of a Partnership Fellow
6 described in subparagraph (A) or (B), may be
7 awarded during the period of student teaching,
8 as permitted under subsection (c)(6).

9 “(3) SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR PARTNER-
10 SHIP FELLOWS.—Each Partnership Fellow shall,
11 within 7 years after graduating with a bachelor’s de-
12 gree with a State license or certificate to teach—

13 “(A) teach for 4 qualifying years at one or
14 more public schools within the State in which
15 the eligible partnership that selected the Part-
16 nership Fellow is located; or

17 “(B) teach for 3 consecutive qualifying
18 years (unless the recipient takes leave of ab-
19 sence, approved by the State agency on a case-
20 by-case basis), at one or more public schools
21 within such State that, at the time the recipient
22 accepts employment, the local educational agen-
23 cy in which such school is located has identified
24 for school improvement under section 1116(b)

1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
2 Act of 1965.

3 “(4) FAILURE TO MEET SERVICE REQUIRE-
4 MENT.—

5 “(A) OBLIGATION TO REPAY.—Any Part-
6 nership Fellow who fails to meet the service re-
7 quirement under paragraph (3) shall repay to
8 the eligible partnership that selected the Part-
9 nership Fellow, a pro rata amount, as deter-
10 mined by the State agency administering the
11 State Partnership Fellows Program, of the
12 scholarship received from the Partnership Fel-
13 lows Program, and to pay interest on such pro
14 rata amount at an annual rate of 10 percent
15 until such pro rata amount is repaid.

16 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)
17 shall not apply if the State agency finds that it
18 is impossible for the Partnership Fellow to meet
19 the service requirement under paragraph (3)
20 because of the death or permanent disability of
21 the Partnership Fellow.

22 “(C) REVOLVING FUNDING.—Any funds
23 repaid by a Partnership Fellow pursuant to
24 subparagraph (A), together with any interest
25 thereon, shall be transferred by the eligible

1 partnership to the State agency, and may be re-
2 tained by the State agency for making available
3 additional scholarships under this section, and
4 for administrative costs related to the disburse-
5 ment of such scholarships.

6 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

7 “(1) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘eligi-
8 ble partnership’ means a partnership agreement be-
9 tween at least one associate’s degree-granting insti-
10 tution and at least one bachelor’s degree-granting
11 institution in which all members of the partnership
12 agree to—

13 “(A) establish significantly similar cur-
14ricula and degree requirements for individuals
15 pursuing a bachelor’s degree with a State li-
16 cense or certification to teach;

17 “(B) ensure that credit earned by an indi-
18 vidual at any institution that is a member of
19 the eligible partnership is acceptable for full
20 credit toward such a bachelor’s degree at any
21 other member institution of the same eligible
22 partnership that offers such bachelor’s degrees;
23 and

24 “(C) jointly sponsor the mandatory extra-
25 curricular enrichment programs and activities

1 required for Partnership Fellows under sub-
2 section (c)(3).

3 “(2) PARTNERSHIP FELLOW.—The term ‘Part-
4 nership Fellow’ means an individual selected by an
5 eligible partnership for a scholarship award under
6 this section.

7 “(3) QUALIFYING YEAR.—The term ‘qualifying
8 year’, with respect to the service required of a Part-
9 nership Fellow under subsection (e), means an aca-
10 demic year during which the Partnership Fellow
11 teaches a minimum of six full calendar months with-
12 in such academic year.

13 “(4) STATE.—The term ‘State’ includes the
14 several States, the District of Columbia, and the
15 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

16 “(5) STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘State agency’
17 means the agency designated pursuant to subsection
18 (b)(2).

19 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may
22 be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.

○