

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2611

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to  
strengthen mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
of 1965 to strengthen mentoring programs, 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 “Mentoring America’s  
5       Children Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO MENTORING PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) PURPOSE; DEFINITIONS.—Section 4130(a) of the  
3 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
4 U.S.C. 7140(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (B) by striking  
7 “achievement of such children” and inserting  
8 “outcomes of such children by improving their  
9 school connectedness, decreasing absenteeism,  
10 and increasing academic performance”;

11 (B) in subparagraph (D) by striking “and”  
12 at the end;

13 (C) in subparagraph (E) by striking the  
14 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (D) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(F) to foster character education.”;

17 (2) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii) by striking “a part-  
18 nership between a local educational agency and a  
19 nonprofit, community-based organization” and in-  
20 serting “a consortium between one or more local  
21 educational agencies; nonprofit community-based or-  
22 ganizations; and other partners, such as corpora-  
23 tions or universities, or both”; and

24 (3) in paragraph (2)(C)(iii) by inserting after  
25 “responsible” the following: “and successful”.

1 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4130(b) of such Act  
2 (20 U.S.C. 7140(b)) is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding  
4 subparagraph (A), by striking “under section  
5 4003(2)” and inserting “under subsection (d)”;

6 (2) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking “(particu-  
7 larly” and all that follows through “failure)” and in-  
8 serting “, particularly children living in rural, subur-  
9 ban, or urban areas facing high rates of crime, gang  
10 involvement, drug use, and dropouts,”;

11 (3) in paragraph (4)—

12 (A) by amending subparagraph (D) to read  
13 as follows:

14 “(D) an assurance that each mentor will  
15 be assigned to no more than three children, and  
16 that when assigned more than one child (which  
17 is preferable where practicable), the assignment  
18 must not undermine the mentor’s ability to be  
19 an effective mentor or to establish a close rela-  
20 tionship with each mentored child;”;

21 (B) in subparagraph (I) by striking “and”  
22 at the end;

23 (C) in subparagraph (J) by striking the  
24 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
25 and

1 (D) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(K) information regarding the staffing  
3 plan and levels the eligible entity will use to  
4 monitor the mentor/mentee match over the du-  
5 ration of the match; and

6 “(L) information regarding the eligible en-  
7 tity’s sustainability plan, specifically how the el-  
8 igible entity will meet the required match,  
9 which is—

10 “(i) in year 1 of the grant, at least 10  
11 percent of the amount awarded for that  
12 year;

13 “(ii) in year 2 of the grant, at least  
14 25 percent of the amount awarded for that  
15 year;

16 “(iii) in year 3 of the grant, at least  
17 50 percent of the amount awarded for that  
18 year; and

19 “(iv) for an entity receiving subse-  
20 quent funding under subparagraph (E) of  
21 paragraph (5), in all three years of the  
22 grant the match shall be at least 50 per-  
23 cent of the amount awarded for that  
24 year.”;

25 (4) in paragraph (5)(C)—

1 (A) in clause (i) by striking “urban and  
2 rural” and inserting “urban, suburban, and  
3 rural”;

4 (B) in clause (ii)(II), by inserting after  
5 “organizations,” the following: “children,”; and

6 (C) in clause (iii), by inserting after “men-  
7 toring program” the following: “and sustain it  
8 for the duration of the grant and beyond”; and

9 (5) in paragraph (5), by adding at the end fol-  
10 lowing:

11 “(E) SUBSEQUENT GRANTS.—In awarding  
12 grants under subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
13 shall consider entities who have received fund-  
14 ing in a prior grant cycle for a new grant only  
15 if each of the following criteria are met:

16 “(i) Performance during the initial  
17 grant was satisfactory in terms of program  
18 design and numbers of children served.

19 “(ii) The subsequent grant will exclu-  
20 sively support expanded service to a new  
21 geographic area or target population.

22 “(iii) The eligible entity demonstrates  
23 that it is able to provide a 50 percent  
24 match to Federal funds for all three years  
25 of the new grant.

1           “(F) POLICY ON ONE ENTITY HAVING TWO  
2           GRANTS AT SAME TIME.—In awarding grants  
3           under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may  
4           have in effect a policy under which an entity is  
5           prohibited from having two grants at the same  
6           time. However, such a policy shall not prohibit  
7           an entity from having two grants at the same  
8           time when the periods of the two grants overlap  
9           by three months or less.”.

10       (c) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—Section 4130 of such  
11   Act (20 U.S.C. 7140) is amended by adding at the end  
12   the following:

13       “(c) ENSURING QUALITY GRANTS.—

14           “(1) SUPPORT FOR GRANTEEES.—In order to en-  
15       sure the strongest possible outcomes for children  
16       mentored through this section, the Secretary shall—

17           “(A) provide training and technical assist-  
18       ance to grant recipients, beginning in year 1  
19       and continuing throughout the span of the  
20       grant;

21           “(B) track the mentoring practices and  
22       outcomes of all grant recipients throughout the  
23       3-year span of the grant utilizing a robust on-  
24       line tracking and evaluation system; and

1           “(C) submit an annual report to Congress  
2           detailing the number of children served by  
3           grant recipients and the outcomes achieved for  
4           those children.

5           “(2) RESEARCH ON SCHOOL-BASED MEN-  
6           TORING.—In order to ensure that grant recipients  
7           have access to the most current research-based  
8           knowledge about building and carrying out strong  
9           and effective mentoring programs, the Secretary  
10          shall do the following:

11               “(A) Consult with leading mentoring orga-  
12               nizations and researchers, including the Federal  
13               Mentoring Council and the National Mentoring  
14               Working Group, to determine priorities for re-  
15               search on school-based mentoring and appro-  
16               priate research design, with consideration for—

17                       “(i) determining the ideal school envi-  
18                       ronments in which school-based mentoring  
19                       succeeds;

20                       “(ii) identifying techniques for match-  
21                       ing children with specific characteristics  
22                       (such as age, academic situation, risk fac-  
23                       tors) with the most appropriate mentoring  
24                       models;

1 “(iii) determining the ideal infrastruc-  
2 ture needed to foster the expansion of  
3 school-based mentoring in a sustainable  
4 way; and

5 “(iv) refining best practices, match  
6 activities, and a range of mentoring models  
7 to lead to the best possible outcomes for  
8 children.

9 “(B) Issue grants or contracts to high-  
10 quality research entities to perform research on  
11 the priorities identified in subparagraph (A),  
12 with the following criteria:

13 “(i) The proposed research design  
14 must meet accepted standards within the  
15 academic community.

16 “(ii) All research results and findings  
17 must be widely disseminated to existing  
18 grantees and to the larger mentoring com-  
19 munity.

20 “(C) Issue grants or contracts only if  
21 amount appropriated for each fiscal year under  
22 paragraph (1) of subsection (d) exceeds  
23 \$50,000,000.

24 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; RES-  
25 ERVATION OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—

1           “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to  
2       be appropriated to carry out this section  
3       \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as  
4       may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

5           “(2) RESERVATIONS.—Each fiscal year, the  
6       Secretary shall reserve—

7                   “(A) not more than 5 percent of the  
8               amount appropriated for that fiscal year under  
9               paragraph (1) for expenditure on support for  
10              grantees as authorized by paragraph (1) of sub-  
11              section (c); and

12                   “(B) not more than 10 percent of the  
13               amount appropriated for that fiscal year under  
14               paragraph (1) for expenditure on research as  
15               authorized by paragraph (2) of subsection (c).”.

16       (d) REVISIONS TO OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—

17           (1) INCLUSION OF MENTORING FOR MINORITY  
18       PROGRAMS.—

19                   (A) Section 7121(c)(1) of the Elementary  
20               and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
21               U.S.C. 7441(c)(1)) is amended—

22                           (i) in subparagraph (E) by inserting  
23                           after “programs and projects” the fol-  
24                           lowing: “, including mentoring,”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (J) by inserting  
2 after “programs” the following: “, includ-  
3 ing mentoring,”.

4 (B) Section 7205(a)(3) of that Act (20  
5 U.S.C. 7515(a)(3)) is amended—

6 (i) in subparagraph (H)(ii) by insert-  
7 ing after “programs” the following: “, in-  
8 cluding mentoring”;

9 (ii) in subparagraph (I)(iii) by insert-  
10 ing after “counseling” the following: “,  
11 mentoring,”.

12 (C) Section 7304(a)(2)(P) of that Act (20  
13 U.S.C. 7544(a)(2)(P)) is amended by inserting  
14 after “program” the following: “or mentoring  
15 programs”.

16 (2) TRANSITION SERVICES.—Section  
17 1418(a)(2)(C) of that Act (20 U.S.C.  
18 6438(a)(2)(C)) is amended—

19 (A) in clause (iv) by striking “and” at the  
20 end;

21 (B) in clause (v) by striking the period at  
22 the end and inserting “; and”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(vi) youth mentoring programs.”.

1           (3) NATIONAL SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS  
2       PROGRAMS.—Section 4121(a)(2) of that Act (20  
3       U.S.C. 7131(a)(2)) is amended—

4           (A) in subparagraph (C) by striking “and”  
5       at the end;

6           (B) in subparagraph (D) by adding “and”  
7       at the end; and

8           (C) by adding at the end the following:

9           “(E) school and community-based men-  
10       toring programs;”.

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