

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2861

To forgive certain loan repayments of teachers of limited English proficiency students, to direct the Commissioner of the National Center for Educational Statistics to study educational achievement performance measures of limited English proficiency children, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2007

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To forgive certain loan repayments of teachers of limited English proficiency students, to direct the Commissioner of the National Center for Educational Statistics to study educational achievement performance measures of limited English proficiency children, 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 “Language Education
5 for Success Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Between January 2000 and March 2005, an
4 estimated 7,900,000 new immigrants (documented
5 and undocumented) relocated to the United States,
6 constituting the biggest wave of immigrants in
7 American history.

8 (2) English language learners account for 10.3
9 percent of public school enrollment and are con-
10 centrated in large and urban school districts.

11 (3) Hispanic students from age 16 through age
12 19 who have non-proficient English language skills
13 have a dropout rate of 59 percent.

14 (4) The poverty rate for immigrants and their
15 United States-born children under age 18 is 57 per-
16 cent higher than the percentage for natives and their
17 children.

18 (5) High poverty school districts, both urban
19 and rural, are particularly affected by teacher short-
20 ages.

21 (6) The National Center for Education Statis-
22 tics predicts that over 2,000,000 new teachers will
23 be needed across the Nation over the next decade.

1 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR TEACHERS**
2 **OF STUDENTS OF LIMITED ENGLISH PRO-**
3 **FICIENCY.**

4 (a) FFEL LOANS.—Section 428J(c)(3) of the High-
5 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078–10(c)(3)) is
6 amended—

7 (1) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “,
8 AND TEACHERS OF STUDENTS OF LIMITED ENGLISH
9 PROFICIENCY” before the period; and

10 (2) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “math-
11 ematics or science” and inserting “mathematics,
12 science, or students of limited English proficiency”.

13 (b) DIRECT LOANS.—Section 460(c)(3) of such Act
14 (20 U.S.C. 1087j(c)(3)) is amended—

15 (1) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “,
16 AND TEACHERS OF STUDENTS OF LIMITED ENGLISH
17 PROFICIENCY” before the period; and

18 (2) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “math-
19 ematics or science” and inserting “mathematics,
20 science, or students of limited English proficiency”.

21 (c) NEW BORROWER ELIGIBILITY.—The amend-
22 ments made by this section shall apply only with respect
23 to teachers of students of limited English proficiency who
24 are new borrowers (as such term is defined in 103 of the
25 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003)) on or
26 after October 1, 1998.

1 **SEC. 4. STUDY AND REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVE-**
2 **MENT PERFORMANCE MEASURES OF LIM-**
3 **ITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY CHILDREN.**

4 (a) STUDY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of the
6 National Center for Educational Statistics (in this
7 Act referred to as the “Commissioner”) shall con-
8 duct a study to obtain detailed information about
9 the performance of recipients of funding under title
10 III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
11 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.) to measure aca-
12 demic progress of limited English proficiency chil-
13 dren and immigrant children and youth.

14 (2) SPECIFIC TOPICS.—In conducting the study
15 required under paragraph (1), the Commissioner
16 shall specifically examine the following questions:

17 (A) What are the dropout rates of limited
18 English proficiency children across the Nation,
19 and why do these children drop?

20 (B) What are the graduation completion
21 and dropout rates of all students covered by
22 title III of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
23 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.)?

24 (C) What is the academic achievement gap
25 between Hispanic and non-Hispanic limited
26 English proficiency children?

1 (D) Is there a correlation between English
2 proficiency and graduation rates for limited
3 English proficiency children?

4 (E) How does socioeconomic status affect
5 dropout rates of the limited English proficiency
6 children?

7 (F) What percentage of limited English
8 proficiency children attend adult education pro-
9 grams (including English as a Second Lan-
10 guage and General Educational Development
11 course work) after they drop out? What per-
12 centage of students would attend those pro-
13 grams if they were universally available?

14 (3) DEADLINE.—The Commissioner shall com-
15 plete the study required by this subsection not later
16 than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

17 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after comple-
18 tion of the study required by subsection (a), the Commis-
19 sioner shall submit to Congress a report containing a de-
20 tailed statement of the findings and conclusions based
21 upon such study.

1 **SEC. 5. BEST PRACTICES OF STATES IMPLEMENTING PRO-**
2 **GRAMS FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**
3 **STUDENTS.**

4 The Secretary of Education shall compile and make
5 public a list with descriptions of the instructional pro-
6 grams used in each State for achieving academic success
7 of limited English proficiency children and immigrant stu-
8 dents. For such list, the Secretary shall assess the cost,
9 advantages, and risks of the various programs.

10 **SEC. 6. SPRINGBOARD CREDITS.**

11 Subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Edu-
12 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) is amended
13 by adding at the end the following new chapter:

14 **“CHAPTER 4—SPRINGBOARD CREDITS**

15 **“SEC. 408A. PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**

16 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts ap-
17 propriated under subsection (e), the Secretary is author-
18 ized to provide grants to institutions of higher education
19 to provide foreign language and teacher preparation in-
20 struction to incoming first-year undergraduates in accord-
21 ance with the requirements of this section.

22 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—Any institution of higher edu-
23 cation that seeks to obtain a grant under this chapter shall
24 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in
25 such manner, and containing or accompanied by such in-
26 formation and assurances as the Secretary may require.

1 “(c) ELIGIBLE PROGRAM.—To be eligible to receive
2 a grant under this chapter, a program of an institution
3 of higher education shall—

4 “(1) provide, during the months preceding the
5 enrollment of an incoming first-year student, a pro-
6 gram of instruction, on the campus of that or an-
7 other institution of higher education, consisting of
8 both—

9 “(A) a course in foreign language instruc-
10 tion of 3 credit hours, or an equivalent as de-
11 termined by the institution; and

12 “(B) a course in teacher preparation in-
13 struction, in the education department (or com-
14 parable unit) of the institution, of 3 credit
15 hours, or an equivalent as determined by the in-
16 stitution; and

17 “(2) provide, from the amount of the grant re-
18 ceived by the institution, a grant to any such stu-
19 dent selected for participation in the program of not
20 more than \$1,500 to cover the cost of tuition for en-
21 rollment in such courses.

22 “(d) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

23 “(1) APPROVAL AND SELECTION.—The Sec-
24 retary shall, by regulation, prescribe procedures for
25 the approval of applications and the selection of in-

1 stitutions of higher education for the award of
2 grants under this chapter.

3 “(2) NOTICE OF PROGRAM.—Within 90 days
4 after the date of enactment of this chapter, the Sec-
5 retary shall—

6 “(A) publish a concise summary the pro-
7 gram under this chapter on the website of the
8 Department; and

9 “(B) transmit such summary to each eligi-
10 ble institution of higher education.

11 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this chapter
13 \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may
14 be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

15 “(f) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
16 term ‘incoming first-year student’ means an individual
17 who has been accepted for enrollment by an institution
18 of higher education and who has not successfully com-
19 pleted the first year of a program of undergraduate edu-
20 cation at that institution.”.

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