

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3357

To reauthorize the National Writing Project.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 3, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To reauthorize the National Writing Project.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) The United States is facing a continuing
6 crisis in writing in schools and in the workplace.

7 (2) Nationwide reports show that nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of
8 high school graduates are not ready for college-level
9 English composition courses.

10 (3) Writing is a threshold skill for both employ-
11 ment and promotion; deficiencies in writing skills

1 have resulted in annual private-sector costs for pro-
2 viding writing training as high as \$3,100,000,000.

3 (4) Writing is a central feature in State and
4 local educational standards in all disciplines.

5 (5) Since 1973, the only national program to
6 address the writing problem in the Nation's schools
7 has been the National Writing Project's network of
8 collaborative university-school programs.

9 (6) Evaluations of the National Writing Project
10 document significant gains in student performance
11 in writing and effective classroom practices.

12 (7) The National Writing Project has become a
13 model for programs to improve teaching in such
14 other fields as mathematics, science, history, civics
15 and government, geography, reading and literature,
16 technology, performing arts, and foreign languages.

17 (8) Each year, more that 135,000 teachers di-
18 rectly benefit from National Writing Project pro-
19 grams in nearly 200 sites located in all 50 States,
20 the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S.
21 Virgin Islands.

22 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.**

23 Subpart 2 of part C of title II of the Elementary and
24 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6701 et
25 seq.) is amended to read as follows:

1 “SUBPART 2—NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

2 **“SEC. 2331. PURPOSES.**

3 “The purposes of this subpart are—

4 “(1) to support and promote the expansion of
5 the National Writing Project network of sites so
6 that teachers in every region of the United States
7 will have access to a National Writing Project pro-
8 gram;

9 “(2) to ensure the consistent high quality of the
10 sites through ongoing review, evaluation, and tech-
11 nical assistance;

12 “(3) to support and promote the establishment
13 of programs to disseminate effective practices and
14 research findings about the teaching of writing; and

15 “(4) to coordinate activities assisted under this
16 subpart with activities assisted under this Act.

17 **“SEC. 2332. NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT.**

18 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary is authorized
19 to award a grant to the National Writing Project, a non-
20 profit educational organization that has as its primary
21 purpose the improvement of the quality of student writing
22 and learning (hereafter in this section referred to as the
23 ‘grantee’) to improve the teaching of writing and the use
24 of writing as a part of the learning process in our Nation’s
25 classrooms.

1 “(b) REQUIREMENTS OF GRANT.—The grant shall
2 provide that—

3 “(1) the grantee will enter into contracts with
4 institutions of higher education or other nonprofit
5 educational providers (hereafter in this section re-
6 ferred to as ‘contractors’) under which the contrac-
7 tors will agree to establish, operate, and provide the
8 non-Federal share of the cost of teacher training
9 programs in effective approaches and processes for
10 the teaching of writing;

11 “(2) funds made available by the Secretary to
12 the grantee pursuant to any contract entered into
13 under this section will be used to pay the Federal
14 share of the cost of establishing and operating teach-
15 er training programs as provided in paragraph (1);
16 and

17 “(3) the grantee will meet such other conditions
18 and standards as the Secretary determines to be
19 necessary to assure compliance with the provisions
20 of this section and will provide such technical assist-
21 ance as may be necessary to carry out the provisions
22 of this section.

23 “(c) TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMS.—The teacher
24 training programs authorized in subsection (a) shall—

1 “(1) be conducted during the school year and
2 during the summer months;

3 “(2) train teachers who teach grades kinder-
4 garten through college;

5 “(3) select teachers to become members of a
6 National Writing Project teacher network whose
7 members will conduct writing workshops for other
8 teachers in the area served by each National Writing
9 Project site; and

10 “(4) encourage teachers from all disciplines to
11 participate in such teacher training programs.

12 “(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
14 graph (2) or (3) and for purposes of subsection (a),
15 the term ‘Federal share’ means, with respect to the
16 costs of teacher training programs authorized in
17 subsection (a), 50 percent of such costs to the con-
18 tractor.

19 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the
20 provisions of paragraph (1) on a case-by-case basis
21 if the National Advisory Board described in sub-
22 section (e) determines, on the basis of financial
23 need, that such waiver is necessary.

24 “(3) MAXIMUM.—The Federal share of the
25 costs of teacher training programs conducted pursu-

ant to subsection (a) may not exceed \$150,000 for any one contractor, or \$300,000 for a statewide program administered by any one contractor in at least five sites throughout the State.

“(e) NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The National Writing Project shall establish and operate a National Advisory Board.

“(2) COMPOSITION.—The National Advisory Board established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall consist of—

“(A) national educational leaders;

“(B) leaders in the field of writing; and

“(C) such other individuals as the National Writing Project determines necessary.

“(3) DUTIES.—The National Advisory Board established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) advise the National Writing Project on national issues related to student writing and the teaching of writing;

“(B) review the activities and programs of the National Writing Project; and

“(C) support the continued development of the National Writing Project.

“(f) EVALUATION.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
2 duct an independent evaluation by grant or contract
3 of the teacher training programs administered pur-
4 suant to this subpart. Such evaluation shall specify
5 the amount of funds expended by the National Writ-
6 ing Project and each contractor receiving assistance
7 under this section for administrative costs. The re-
8 sults of such evaluation shall be made available to
9 the appropriate committees of Congress.

10 “(2) FUNDING LIMITATION.—The Secretary
11 shall reserve not more than \$150,000 from the total
12 amount appropriated pursuant to the authority of
13 subsection (h) for fiscal year 2008, and such sums
14 as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fis-
15 cal years, to conduct the evaluation described in
16 paragraph (1).

17 “(g) APPLICATION REVIEW.—

18 “(1) REVIEW BOARD.—The National Writing
19 Project shall establish and operate a National Re-
20 view Board that shall consist of—

21 “(A) leaders in the field of research in
22 writing; and

23 “(B) such other individuals as the Na-
24 tional Writing Project deems necessary.

1 “(2) DUTIES.—The National Review Board
2 shall—

3 “(A) review all applications for assistance
4 under this subsection; and

5 “(B) recommend applications for assist-
6 ance under this subsection for funding by the
7 National Writing Project.

8 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart
10 \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may
11 be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.

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