

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4449

To aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2007

Mr. PAYNE (for himself and Mr. SOUDER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education.

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 “Prescribe A Book
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PEDIATRIC INVOLVEMENT IN READING AND EDU-**
7 **CATION.**

8 Part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary
9 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6361 et seq.) is amend-
10 ed by adding at the end the following:

1 **“Subpart 5—Pediatric Early Literacy Program**

2 **“SEC. 1261. DEFINITIONS.**

3 “In this subpart:

4 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
5 tity’ means a nonprofit organization that has, as de-
6 termined by the Secretary, demonstrated effective-
7 ness in the following areas:

8 “(A) Providing peer-to-peer training to
9 healthcare providers in research-based methods
10 of literacy promotion as part of routine pedi-
11 atric health supervision visits.

12 “(B) Delivering a training curriculum
13 through a variety of medical education settings,
14 including residency training, continuing medical
15 education, and national pediatric conferences.

16 “(C) Providing technical assistance to local
17 healthcare facilities to effectively implement a
18 high-quality Pediatric Early Literacy Program.

19 “(D) Offering opportunities for local
20 healthcare facilities to obtain books at signifi-
21 cant discounts, as described in section 1266.

22 “(E) Integrating the latest developmental
23 and educational research into the training cur-
24 riculum for healthcare providers described in
25 subparagraph (B).

1 “(2) PEDIATRIC EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM.—

2 The term ‘Pediatric Early Literacy Program’ means

3 a program that—

4 “(A) creates and implements a 3-part
5 model through which—

6 “(i) healthcare providers, doctors, and
7 nurses, trained in research-based methods
8 of early language and literacy promotion,
9 encourage parents to read aloud to their
10 young children, and offer developmentally
11 appropriate recommendations and strate-
12 gies to parents for the purpose of reading
13 aloud to their children;

14 “(ii) healthcare providers, at health
15 supervision visits, provide each child be-
16 tween the ages of 6 months and 5 years a
17 new, developmentally appropriate chil-
18 dren’s book to take home and keep; and

19 “(iii) volunteers in waiting areas of
20 healthcare facilities read aloud to children,
21 modeling for parents the techniques and
22 pleasures of sharing books together;

23 “(B) demonstrates, through research pub-
24 lished in peer-reviewed journals, effectiveness in
25 positively altering parent behavior regarding

1 reading aloud to children, and improving ex-
2 pressive and receptive language in young chil-
3 dren; and

4 “(C) receives the endorsement of nation-
5 ally-recognized medical associations and acad-
6 emies.

7 **“SEC. 1262. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

8 “The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligi-
9 ble entities under this subpart to enable the eligible enti-
10 ties to implement Pediatric Early Literacy Programs.

11 **“SEC. 1263. APPLICATION.**

12 “An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant
13 under this subpart shall submit an application to the Sec-
14 retary at such time, in such manner, and including such
15 information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

16 **“SEC. 1264. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

17 “An eligible entity receiving a grant under this sub-
18 part shall provide either directly or through private con-
19 tributions, in cash or in-kind, non-Federal matching funds
20 equal to not less than 50 percent of the grant received
21 by the eligible entity under this subpart.

22 **“SEC. 1265. USE OF GRANT FUNDS.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving a
24 grant under this subpart shall—

1 “(1) enter into contracts with private nonprofit
2 organizations, or with public agencies, selected based
3 on the criteria described in subsection (b), under
4 which each contractor will agree to establish and op-
5 erate a Pediatric Early Literacy Program;

6 “(2) provide such training and technical assist-
7 ance to each contractor of the eligible entity as may
8 be necessary to carry out this subpart; and

9 “(3) include such other terms and conditions in
10 an agreement with a contractor as the Secretary de-
11 termines to be appropriate to ensure the effective-
12 ness of such programs.

13 “(b) CONTRACTOR CRITERIA.—Contractors shall be
14 selected under subsection (a)(1) on the basis of the extent
15 to which the contractors give priority to serving a substan-
16 tial number or percentage of at-risk children, including—

17 “(1) low-income children (defined in this section
18 as children from families with incomes below 200
19 percent of the poverty line), particularly low-income
20 children in high-poverty areas;

21 “(2) children without adequate medical insur-
22 ance;

23 “(3) children enrolled in a State Medicaid pro-
24 gram, established under title XIX of the Social Se-
25 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) or in the State

1 Children’s Health Insurance Program established
2 under title XXI of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et
3 seq.);

4 “(4) children living in rural areas;

5 “(5) migrant children; and

6 “(6) children with limited access to libraries.

7 **“SEC. 1266. RESTRICTION ON PAYMENTS.**

8 “The Secretary shall make no payment to eligible en-
9 tities under this subpart unless the Secretary determines
10 that the eligible entity or a contractor of the eligible entity,
11 as the case may be, has made arrangements with book
12 publishers or distributors to obtain books at discounts that
13 are at least as favorable as discounts that are customarily
14 given by such publisher or distributor for book purchases
15 made under similar circumstances in the absence of Fed-
16 eral assistance.

17 **“SEC. 1267. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

18 “An eligible entity receiving a grant under this sub-
19 part shall report annually to the Secretary on the effec-
20 tiveness of the program implemented by the eligible entity
21 and the programs instituted by each contractor of the eli-
22 gible entity, and shall include in the report a description
23 of each program.

1 **“SEC. 1268. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this subpart—

4 “(1) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

5 “(2) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

6 “(3) \$17,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

7 “(4) \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

8 “(5) \$19,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.”.

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