

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4898

To provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2007

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

A BILL

To provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of 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 “Best Buddies Em-
5 powerment for People with Intellectual Disabilities Act of
6 2007”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Best Buddies is the first national social and
2 recreational program in the United States for people
3 with mental retardation.

4 (2) Best Buddies is dedicated to helping people
5 with intellectual disabilities become part of main-
6 stream society.

7 (3) Best Buddies is determined to end social
8 isolation for people with intellectual disabilities by
9 establishing meaningful friendships with their non-
10 disabled peers in order to help increase the self-es-
11 teem, confidence, and abilities of people with and
12 without intellectual disabilities.

13 (4) Since 1989, Best Buddies has enhanced the
14 lives of people with intellectual disabilities by pro-
15 viding opportunities for one-to-one friendships and
16 integrated employment.

17 (5) Best Buddies is an international organiza-
18 tion spanning 1300 middle school, high school, and
19 college campuses.

20 (6) The Best Buddies organization implements
21 programs that will positively impact more than
22 350,000 individuals this year and expect to be able
23 to reach 500,000 people by 2010.

1 (7) The Best Buddies Jobs program continues
2 the integration of people with intellectual disabilities
3 into the community through supported employment.

4 (8) The Best Buddies Citizens program pairs
5 people with mental retardation in one-to-one friend-
6 ships with other individuals in the corporate and
7 civic communities.

8 (9) The Best Buddies Colleges program pairs
9 people with mental retardation in one-to-one friend-
10 ships with college students.

11 (10) The Best Buddies High Schools program
12 pairs students with mental retardation in one-to-one
13 friendships with high school students.

14 (11) The Best Buddies e-Buddies program cre-
15 ates respective e-mail friendships between people
16 with and without intellectual disabilities.

17 (b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are to—

18 (1) provide support to Best Buddies to increase
19 participation in and public awareness about Best
20 Buddies programs that serve people with intellectual
21 disabilities;

22 (2) dispel negative stereotypes about people
23 with intellectual disabilities; and

24 (3) promote the extraordinary gifts of people
25 with intellectual disabilities.

1 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR BEST BUDDIES.**

2 (a) EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Edu-
3 cation may award grants to, or enter into contracts or co-
4 operative agreements with, Best Buddies to carry out the
5 following:

6 (1) Activities to promote the expansion of Best
7 Buddies, including activities to increase the partici-
8 pation of individuals with intellectual disabilities
9 within the United States.

10 (2) The design and implementation of Best
11 Buddies education and outreach programs, including
12 character education and volunteer programs that
13 support the purposes of this Act, that can be inte-
14 grated into classroom instruction and are consistent
15 with academic content standards.

16 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts appropriated to
18 carry out this Act may not be used for direct treat-
19 ment of diseases, medical conditions, or mental
20 health conditions.

21 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES.—Not more
22 than three percent of amounts appropriated to carry
23 out this Act may be used for administrative activi-
24 ties.

1 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
2 shall be construed to limit the use of non-Federal funds
3 by Best Buddies.

4 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION AND ANNUAL REPORT.**

5 (a) APPLICATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant,
7 contract, or cooperative agreement under section
8 3(a), Best Buddies shall submit an application at
9 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
10 formation as the Secretary of Education or Sec-
11 retary of State, as applicable, may require.

12 (2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, an application
13 under this subsection shall contain the following:

14 (A) A description of activities to be carried
15 out with the grant, contract, or cooperative
16 agreement.

17 (B) Information on specific measurable
18 goals and objectives to be achieved through ac-
19 tivities carried out with the grant, contract, or
20 cooperative agreement.

21 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of
23 any funds under section 3(a), Best Buddies shall
24 agree to submit an annual report at such time, in
25 such manner, and containing such information as

1 the Secretary of Education or Secretary of State, as
2 applicable, may require.

3 (2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, each annual re-
4 port under this subsection shall describe the degree
5 to which progress has been made toward meeting the
6 specific measurable goals and objectives described in
7 the applications submitted under subsection (a).

8 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There are authorized to be appropriated for grants,
10 contracts, or cooperative agreements under section 3(a),
11 \$10,000,000 to the Secretary of Education for fiscal year
12 2009, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the
13 four succeeding fiscal years.

14 **SEC. 6. BUDGET NEUTRAL.**

15 The following provisions of law are hereby repealed:

16 (1) Section 5523 of the Elementary and Sec-
17 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7265b).

18 (2) Section 5533 of the Elementary and Sec-
19 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7267b).

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