

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 959

To award a grant to enable Teach for America, Inc., to implement and expand its teaching program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2007

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DODD, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To award a grant to enable Teach for America, Inc., to implement and expand its teaching program.

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 “Teach For America
5 Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to increase the number of highly accom-
9 plished recent graduates of 4-year institutions of

1 higher education teaching in underserved urban and
2 rural communities in the United States;

3 (2) to increase the number of school districts
4 and communities served by a nationally recruited
5 corps of outstanding new teachers; and

6 (3) to build a broader pipeline of talented and
7 experienced future leaders in public education and
8 education reform.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The terms “highly quali-
12 fied”, “local educational agency”, and “Secretary”
13 have the meanings given the terms in section 9101
14 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
15 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

16 (2) GRANTEE.—The term “grantee” means
17 Teach For America, Inc.

18 (3) HIGH-NEED.—The term “high-need”, when
19 used with respect to a local educational agency,
20 means a local educational agency that serves a sub-
21 stantial percentage of students who are eligible for
22 free or reduced price meals under the Richard B.
23 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751
24 et seq.).

1 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
2 term “institution of higher education” has the
3 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
4 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

5 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

6 The Secretary is authorized to award a grant to
7 Teach For America, Inc., the national corps of out-
8 standing recent graduates of 4-year institutions of higher
9 education who commit to teach for 2 years in underserved
10 communities in the United States, to enable the grantee
11 to implement and expand its program of recruiting, select-
12 ing, training, and supporting new teachers.

13 **SEC. 5. GRANT REQUIREMENTS.**

14 In carrying out the grant program under this Act,
15 the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the
16 grantee under which the grantee agrees to use the grant
17 funds—

18 (1) to provide highly qualified teachers to high-
19 need local educational agencies in urban and rural
20 communities;

21 (2) to pay the cost of recruiting, selecting,
22 training, and supporting new teachers; and

23 (3) to serve a substantial percentage of stu-
24 dents who are eligible for free or reduced price meals

1 under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch
2 Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

3 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

4 Grant funds provided under this Act shall be used
5 by the grantee to carry out each of the following activities:

6 (1) Recruiting and selecting teachers through a
7 highly selective national process.

8 (2) Providing preservice training to selected
9 teachers through a rigorous summer institute that
10 includes hands-on teaching experience and signifi-
11 cant exposure to education coursework and theory.

12 (3) Placing selected teachers in schools and po-
13 sitions in high-need local educational agencies.

14 (4) Providing ongoing professional development
15 activities for the selected teachers in the classroom,
16 including regular classroom observations and feed-
17 back, and ongoing training and support.

18 **SEC. 7. EVALUATION.**

19 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—The grantee shall provide to
20 the Secretary an annual report that includes—

21 (1) data on the number and characteristics of
22 the teachers provided to high-need local educational
23 agencies through the grant under this part;

1 (2) an externally conducted analysis of the sat-
2 isfaction of local educational agencies and principals
3 with the teachers so provided; and

4 (3) comprehensive data on the background of
5 the selected teachers, the training such teachers re-
6 ceived, the placement sites of the teachers, the pro-
7 fessional development of the teachers, and the reten-
8 tion of the teachers.

9 (b) STUDY.—From amounts appropriated under sec-
10 tion 8, the Secretary shall provide for a study comparing
11 the academic achievement of students taught by the teach-
12 ers selected, trained, and placed by the grantee under this
13 Act with the academic achievement of students taught by
14 other teachers in the same schools and positions. The Sec-
15 retary shall provide for such a study not less than once
16 every 3 years, and each such study shall include multiple
17 local educational agencies. Each such study shall meet the
18 peer-review standards of the education research commu-
19 nity.

20 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 this Act—

- 23 (1) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;
24 (2) \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;
25 (3) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

- 1 (4) such sums as may be necessary for each of
- 2 the fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

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