

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1824

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 23, 2009

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor, and Pensions

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Best Buddies Em-  
3 powerment for People with Intellectual Disabilities Act of  
4 2009”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

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

7           (1) Best Buddies operates the first national so-  
8 cial and recreational program in the United States  
9 for people with intellectual disabilities.

10          (2) Best Buddies is dedicated to helping people  
11 with intellectual disabilities become part of main-  
12 stream society.

13          (3) Best Buddies is determined to end social  
14 isolation for people with intellectual disabilities by  
15 promoting meaningful friendships between them and  
16 their non-disabled peers in order to help increase the  
17 self-esteem, confidence, and abilities of people with  
18 and without intellectual disabilities.

19          (4) Since 1989, Best Buddies has enhanced the  
20 lives of people with intellectual disabilities by pro-  
21 viding opportunities for 1-to-1 friendships and inte-  
22 grated employment.

23          (5) Best Buddies is an international organiza-  
24 tion spanning 1,300 middle school, high school, and  
25 college campuses.

1           (6) Best Buddies implements programs that  
2           will positively impact more than 400,000 individuals  
3           in 2009 and expects to impact 500,000 people by  
4           2010.

5           (7) The Best Buddies Middle Schools program  
6           matches middle school students with intellectual dis-  
7           abilities with other middle school students and sup-  
8           ports 1-to-1 friendships between them.

9           (8) The Best Buddies High Schools program  
10          matches high school students with intellectual dis-  
11          abilities with other high school students and sup-  
12          ports 1-to-1 friendships between them.

13          (9) The Best Buddies Colleges program  
14          matches adults with intellectual disabilities with col-  
15          lege students and creates 1-to-1 friendships between  
16          them.

17          (10) The Best Buddies e-Buddies program sup-  
18          ports e-mail friendships between people with and  
19          without intellectual disabilities.

20          (11) The Best Buddies Citizens program pairs  
21          adults with intellectual disabilities in 1-to-1 friend-  
22          ships with other individuals in the corporate and  
23          civic communities.

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

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

5           (1) provide support to Best Buddies to increase  
6           participation in and public awareness about Best  
7           Buddies programs that serve people with intellectual  
8           disabilities;

9           (2) dispel negative stereotypes about people  
10          with intellectual disabilities; and

11          (3) promote the extraordinary contributions of  
12          people with intellectual disabilities.

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

14          (a) EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Edu-  
15          cation may award grants to, or enter into contracts or co-  
16          operative agreements with, Best Buddies to carry out ac-  
17          tivities to promote the expansion of Best Buddies, includ-  
18          ing activities to increase the participation of people with  
19          intellectual disabilities in social relationships and other as-  
20          pects of community life, including education and employ-  
21          ment, within the United States.

22          (b) LIMITATIONS.—

23           (1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts appropriated to  
24          carry out this Act may not be used for direct treat-

1       ment of diseases, medical conditions, or mental  
2       health conditions.

3           (2) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES.—Not more  
4       than 5 percent of amounts appropriated to carry out  
5       this Act for a fiscal year may be used for adminis-  
6       trative activities.

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

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

11       (a) APPLICATION.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant,  
13       contract, or cooperative agreement under section  
14       3(a), Best Buddies shall submit an application at  
15       such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
16       formation as the Secretary of Education may re-  
17       quire.

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

20           (A) A description of activities to be carried  
21       out under the grant, contract, or cooperative  
22       agreement.

23           (B) Information on specific measurable  
24       goals and objectives to be achieved through ac-

(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receipt of any funds under section 3(a), Best Buddies shall agree to submit an annual report at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary of Education may require.

**14 SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Education for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under section 3(a), \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

Passed the House of Representatives April 22, 2009.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
*Clerk.*