

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2755

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to assist underperforming schools to recruit, support, and retain highly qualified and effective teachers by providing grants for participation in the Targeted High Need Initiative program of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to assist underperforming schools to recruit, support, and retain highly qualified and effective teachers by providing grants for participation in the Targeted High Need Initiative program of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

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 “High Quality Teaching
5 Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES TO**
2 **PROVIDE TARGETED ASSISTANCE TO HIGH**
3 **NEED SCHOOLS TO RECRUIT, SUPPORT, AND**
4 **RETAIN HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND EFFECTIVE**
5 **TEACHERS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title II of the Elemen-
7 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
8 6301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing new subpart:

10 **“Subpart 6—Targeted High Need Initiative**
11 **“SEC. 2161. GRANTS TARGETING SCHOOLS HAVING HIGH-**
12 **EST NEED FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND EF-**
13 **FECTIVE TEACHERS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make com-
15 petitive grants to selected local educational agencies to re-
16 cruit, support, and retain highly qualified and effective
17 teachers through participation in the Targeted High Need
18 Initiative program of the National Board for Professional
19 Teaching Standards.

20 “(b) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF ASSISTED AGEN-
21 CIES.—Not more than 250 local educational agencies shall
22 be selected by the Secretary to receive grants under this
23 section.

24 “(c) PRIORITIES.—In making such grants, the Sec-
25 retary shall give priority to local educational agencies—

1 “(1) having the highest number of students
2 from a traditionally disadvantaged background, in-
3 cluding students who receive free or reduced priced
4 meals, students belonging to a minority subgroup,
5 students with limited English proficiency, or migra-
6 tory children;

7 “(2) having the highest number of schools iden-
8 tified for school improvement, corrective action, or
9 restructuring under section 1116(b); and

10 “(3) having the lowest number of teachers who
11 are certified by the National Board of Professional
12 Teaching Standards.

13 “(d) SELECTION PROCESS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
15 grant under this section, a local educational agency
16 shall submit an application to the State educational
17 agency at such time, in such manner, and containing
18 such information as the Secretary may require.

19 “(2) REVIEW BY STATE EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
20 CY.—Applications received by a State educational
21 agency under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to
22 the Secretary (at such time, in such manner, and
23 containing such information as the Secretary may
24 require) together with recommendations by the State
25 educational agency as to—

1 “(A) which local educational agencies have
2 the highest need; and

3 “(B) which should be given preference
4 based on criteria specified by the State edu-
5 cational agency.

6 Such criteria may include the distribution of such
7 grants between urban and rural areas, the number
8 of limited English proficient children, and the num-
9 ber of schools needing assistance.

10 “(3) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—The appli-
11 cation under paragraph (1) shall describe the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(A) The partnership that such agency will
14 form with an institution of higher education or
15 other appropriate entity to carry out the activi-
16 ties described in subsection (e).

17 “(B) How such agency will use funds re-
18 ceived under this section to participate in the
19 Targeted High Need Initiative program of the
20 National Board for Professional Teaching
21 Standards.

22 “(C) Identify the initial 25 classroom
23 teachers, and at least 1 superintendent, prin-
24 cipal, or vice principal, who have agreed to be
25 mentors under such program.

1 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—A local educational agency
2 that receives a grant under this section shall use the funds
3 made available through the grant for the following:

4 “(1) Establish the partnership referred to sub-
5 section (d)(3)(A).

6 “(2) Support teachers through the Targeted
7 High Need Initiative program of the National Board
8 for Professional Teaching Standards through train-
9 ing, professional development, mentoring and tech-
10 nological resources.

11 “(3) Fully fund the assessment fee for all eligi-
12 ble teachers who apply to be certified by such Board
13 and who agree to remain at the participating school
14 for at least 3 years after completing the certifi-
15 cation.

16 “(4) Provide a \$1,000 award to each teacher
17 who is certified by such Board after completing par-
18 ticipation in such a Targeted High Need Initiative
19 program.

20 “(5) Provide sponsoring schools with a \$500
21 award for each teacher described in paragraph (4).

22 “(6) Conduct an independent evaluation of the
23 impact of participation in such Targeted High Need
24 Initiative program on teaching quality and student
25 learning and achievement. Such evaluation may in-

1 clude incorporating multiple sources of data over
2 time to assess immediate and long-term impacts of
3 such participation.

4 “(f) DURATION OF GRANT.—The Secretary shall
5 make grants under this section for period of 5 years.

6 “(g) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—To the extent
7 practicable, the Secretary shall ensure an equitable geo-
8 graphic distribution of grants under this section among
9 the regions of the United States.”.

10 (b) FUNDING.—

11 (1) Section 2103 of the Elementary and Sec-
12 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6603) is
13 amended by adding at the end the following new
14 subsection:

15 “(c) TARGETED HIGH NEED INITIATIVE.—There are
16 authorized to be appropriated to carry out subpart 6
17 \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and each of the 5 suc-
18 ceeding fiscal years.”.

19 (2) Subsection (a) of section 2103 of such Act
20 is amended by striking “subpart 5” and inserting
21 “subparts 5 and 6”.

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