

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1281

To enhance after-school programs in rural areas of the United States by establishing a pilot program to help communities establish and improve rural after-school programs.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 17, 2009

Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To enhance after-school programs in rural areas of the United States by establishing a pilot program to help communities establish and improve rural after-school programs.

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 “Investment in After-  
5       School Programs Act of 2009”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

7       Congress finds that—

1           (1) 21 percent of the children in the United  
2 States attend public schools in rural areas;

3           (2) more than 14,000,000 school-age children  
4 (25 percent of all school-age children) are left alone  
5 after school, including more than 40,000 kinder-  
6 gartners;

7           (3) only 6,500,000 (11 percent) of children in  
8 kindergarten through twelfth grade participate in  
9 after-school programs, although an additional  
10 15,000,000 would participate if a quality program  
11 were available in the communities of the children;

12           (4) in rural areas of the United States,  
13 2,500,000 children live in deep and persistent pov-  
14 erty;

15           (5) among children living in rural areas, 19  
16 percent live in poverty, compared to 15 percent  
17 among non-rural children;

18           (6) rural schools have fewer financial resources  
19 that non-rural schools, largely as a result of dimin-  
20 ished local property tax bases and inequitable dis-  
21 tributions of State funds;

22           (7) low literacy rates among parents in poor  
23 rural communities affect the early language develop-  
24 ment and educational aspirations of children;

1           (8) children living in poverty experience less  
2       cognitive stimulation and enrichment than children  
3       living in middle-income households;

4           (9) the poorer and more diverse the rural popu-  
5       lation, the lower the scores of the students of the  
6       population are on the National Assessment of Edu-  
7       cational Progress;

8           (10) academic outcomes that are linked to  
9       after-school programs include—

10           (A) better performance in school as meas-  
11       ured by achievement test scores and grades;

12           (B) better attitudes toward school and  
13       higher educational aspirations;

14           (C) higher school attendance; and

15           (D) less disciplinary action;

16           (11) investing in after-school programs helps  
17       children in rural communities break out of the cycle  
18       of poverty and creates opportunities for at-risk  
19       youth;

20           (12) in areas in which resources are limited,  
21       after-school programs are often the only source of  
22       supplemental enrichment in literacy, nutrition edu-  
23       cation, technology, and preparation for college en-  
24       trance exams;

1           (13) children attending rural schools have the  
2           lowest median per-student funding for after-school  
3           programs under the 21st century community learn-  
4           ing center program under part B of title IV of the  
5           Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
6           (20 U.S.C. 7171 et seq.), as compared to children  
7           attending urban and suburban schools;

8           (14) after-school program providers in rural  
9           communities face unique barriers that include—

10                   (A) higher transportation costs;

11                   (B) fewer economies of scale, because of  
12           the smaller population base, which results in  
13           less funding per child; and

14                   (C) fewer trained staff and community-  
15           based organizations with whom to partner;

16           (15) in the 30 years before the date of enact-  
17           ment of this Act—

18                   (A) the percentage of children in the  
19           United States who are overweight has more  
20           than doubled; and

21                   (B) the number of teenagers who are over-  
22           weight has nearly tripled;

23           (16) rural, low-income children represent the  
24           highest obesity group among all children in the  
25           United States; and

1 (17) after-school programs provide—

2 (A) much-needed opportunities to promote  
3 and support healthy lifestyles in youth in addi-  
4 tion to constructive learning environments; and

5 (B) effective venues for improving nutri-  
6 tion, nutrition education, and physical activity.

7 **SEC. 3. AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.**

8 Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
9 velopment Act is amended by inserting after section 365  
10 (7 U.S.C. 2008) the following:

11 **“SEC. 366. AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.**

12 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to en-  
13 hance after-school programs in rural areas by helping  
14 communities—

15 “(1) to establish after-school programs; and

16 “(2) to improve existing programs by over-  
17 coming barriers to service.

18 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM.—The term  
20 ‘after-school program’ means a program that carries  
21 out a broad array of activities during periods when  
22 school is not in session (such as before school, after  
23 school, or during summer recess and other vacation  
24 periods) that advance student academic achievement  
25 and promote positive youth development.

1           “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
 2           tity’ means a local educational agency (as such term  
 3           is defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and  
 4           Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
 5           7801)), educational service agency, community-based  
 6           organization, another public or private entity, or a  
 7           consortium of 2 or more such agencies, organiza-  
 8           tions, or entities.

9           “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’  
 10          means an area that is served by an elementary or  
 11          secondary school that is designated with a school lo-  
 12          cale code of Distant Town, Remote Town, Fringe  
 13          Rural, Distant Rural, or Remote Rural, as deter-  
 14          mined by the Secretary of Education.

15          “(c) GRANTS.—

16               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make  
 17               grants to eligible entities to improve, expand, or es-  
 18               tablish after-school programs in rural areas.

19               “(2) REQUIREMENT.—Each grant under this  
 20               section shall be in an amount of not less than  
 21               \$25,000.

22          “(d) DURATION.—

23               “(1) TERM OF GRANT.—The term of a grant  
 24               under this section may not be for less than 3 years.

1           “(2) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew a  
2           grant under this section for a period of not less than  
3           3 years, based on the performance of the eligible en-  
4           tity during the previous grant term.

5           “(e) USES.—As a condition of the receipt of a grant  
6           under this section, an eligible entity shall use the grant  
7           to fund projects and activities described in subsection (c),  
8           including transportation, professional development, train-  
9           ing, recruitment and retention of staff, increasing access  
10          to technology, and planning.

11          “(f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary may use not more  
12          than 1 percent of the funds under this section—

13               “(1) to conduct evaluations of the effectiveness  
14               of programs and activities assisted under subsection  
15               (c); and

16               “(2) to disseminate the results of those evalua-  
17               tions for the purpose of refining, improving, and  
18               strengthening programs.

19          “(g) OUTREACH, TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL AS-  
20          SISTANCE.—The Secretary may use not more than 3 per-  
21          cent of the funds made available to carry out this sec-  
22          tion—

23               “(1) to conduct outreach, including bidders’  
24               conferences, to ensure widespread knowledge of the  
25               availability of resources described in subsection (c);

1           “(2) to disseminate information on best prac-  
 2           tices and successful program models for serving chil-  
 3           dren and youth in rural areas; and

4           “(3) to provide capacity building, training, and  
 5           technical assistance to after-school programs and  
 6           providers in rural areas.

7           “(h) APPLICATION.—

8           “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be considered for a  
 9           grant under this section, each eligible entity shall  
 10          submit to the Secretary an application at such time,  
 11          in such manner, and accompanied by such informa-  
 12          tion as the Secretary may require.

13          “(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted  
 14          pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include—

15               “(A) a description of the after-school pro-  
 16               gram to be funded, including—

17                       “(i) an assurance that the program  
 18                       will take place in a safe and easily acces-  
 19                       sible facility;

20                       “(ii) a description of how children and  
 21                       youth participating in the program will  
 22                       travel safely between the program site and  
 23                       home;

24                       “(iii) a description of how the eligible  
 25                       entity will disseminate information about



the program, including the location of the program, to the community in a manner that is understandable and accessible;

“(iv)(I) a description of the services to be provided to children and youth, which may include a broad array of activities, such as—

“(aa) academic enrichment and youth development activities;

“(bb) drug and violence prevention programs;

“(cc) counseling programs;

“(dd) art, music, physical fitness, and recreational programs;

“(ee) technology education programs;

“(ff) character education programs; and

“(gg) service-learning programs;

“(II) the roles and responsibilities of the partners in providing the services; and

“(III) how the services enhance an existing after-school program; and

“(v) an assurance that the program will provide a nutritious snack or meal that

1           meets nutrition standards established by  
2           the Secretary;

3           “(B) an assurance that the proposed pro-  
4           gram was developed, and will be carried out, in  
5           active collaboration with the schools the stu-  
6           dents attend;

7           “(C) an assurance that funds provided  
8           under this section will be used to increase the  
9           level of State, local, and other non-Federal  
10          funds that would, in the absence of funds under  
11          this section, be made available for programs  
12          and activities authorized under this section, and  
13          in no case supplant Federal, State, local, or  
14          non-Federal funds;

15          “(D) a description of the partnership be-  
16          tween a local educational agency, a community-  
17          based organization, or another public entity or  
18          private entity, if applicable; and

19          “(E) such additional assurances as the  
20          Secretary determines to be necessary to ensure  
21          compliance with this section.

22          “(i) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to  
23          applications that—

24                  “(1) propose partnerships between 2 or more el-  
25          igible entities; or

1           “(2) propose that a majority of the students  
2       participating in the after-school program are eligible  
3       for free or reduced price school meals under the  
4       Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42  
5       U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and section 4 of the Child Nu-  
6       trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

7       “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
8       are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-  
9       tion—

10           “(1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

11           “(2) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

12           “(3) such sums as are necessary for each of fis-  
13       cal years 2012 through 2014.”.

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