

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3645

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an awards program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2010

Mrs. MURRAY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an awards program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

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. DEFINITIONS AND FINDINGS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

5 (1) CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEE.—In this
6 Act, the term “classified school employee” means an
7 employee working in any grade from pre-kinder-

garten through higher education, in any of the following nine occupational specialities:

(A) Paraprofessionals.

(B) Clerical and administrative services.

(C) Transportation services.

(D) Food and nutrition services.

(E) Custodial and maintenance services.

(F) Security services.

(G) Health and student services.

(H) Technical services.

(I) Skilled trades.

(2) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The terms used in this Act have the meaning given the terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Classified school employees provide valuable service to public schools in the United States.

(2) Classified school employees provide essential services, such as transportation, facilities maintenance and operations, food service, safety, and health care.

(3) Classified school employees play a vital role in providing for the welfare and safety of students.

1 (4) Classified school employees strive for excel-
 2 lence in all areas of service to the education commu-
 3 nity.

4 (5) Exemplary classified school employees
 5 should be recognized for their outstanding contribu-
 6 tions to quality education in the United States.

7 **SEC. 2. RECOGNITION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall
 9 establish and administer a national recognition program
 10 to be known as the “National Classified School Employees
 11 of the Year Awards”. The purpose of the program shall
 12 be to recognize and promote the commitment and excel-
 13 lence exhibited by employees within certain occupational
 14 specialties in public schools who provide exemplary service
 15 to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

16 (b) OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The occupational specialties
 18 referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

19 (A) Paraprofessionals.

20 (B) Clerical and administrative services.

21 (C) Transportation services.

22 (D) Food and nutrition services.

23 (E) Custodial and maintenance services.

24 (F) Security services.

25 (G) Health and student services.

1 (H) Technical services.

2 (I) Skilled trades.

3 (2) NUMBER OF AWARDS.—Prior to March 31
4 of each year (beginning with the second calendar
5 year that begins after the date of the enactment of
6 this Act), the Secretary shall select an employee
7 from each occupational specialty described in para-
8 graph (1) to receive an award under the recognition
9 program.

10 (c) SELECTION PROCESS.—

11 (1) NOMINATION PROCESS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Novem-
13 ber 1 of each year (beginning with the first cal-
14 endar year that begins after the date of the en-
15 actment of this Act), the Secretary shall solicit
16 nominations from each occupational specialty
17 described in subsection (b)(1) from the chief
18 State school officer of each State.

19 (B) NOMINATION SUBMISSIONS.—In order
20 for individuals in a State to be eligible to re-
21 ceive recognition under this section, the chief
22 State school officer of the State shall consider
23 nominations submitted by the following:

24 (i) Local educational agencies.

25 (ii) School administrators.

- 1 (iii) Professional associations.
- 2 (iv) Labor unions.
- 3 (v) Any other group determined ap-
- 4 propriate by the Secretary.

5 (2) DEMONSTRATION.—Each chief State school
 6 officer of a State who desires individuals in the
 7 State to receive recognition under this section shall
 8 submit the nominations described in paragraph (1)
 9 to the Secretary in such manner as the Secretary
 10 may require. Each such nomination shall contain, at
 11 a minimum, demonstrations of excellence in the fol-
 12 lowing areas:

- 13 (A) Work performance.
- 14 (B) School and community involvement.
- 15 (C) Leadership and commitment.
- 16 (D) Local support.
- 17 (E) Enhancement of classified school em-
- 18 ployees' image in the community and schools.
- 19 (F) Any other area of superior perform-
- 20 ance, such as health and safety promotion or ef-
- 21 ficient use of energy or other resources.

22 (3) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall develop
 23 uniform national guidelines for evaluating nomina-
 24 tions submitted under paragraph (2) in order to se-
 25 lect the most deserving nominees based on the dem-

- 1 onstrations made in the areas described in such
- 2 paragraph.

