

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 694

To provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2009

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. HATCH) 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 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Best Buddies Em-  
5 powerment for People with Intellectual Disabilities Act of  
6 2009”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

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

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

4           (2) Best Buddies is dedicated to helping people  
5           with intellectual disabilities become part of main-  
6           stream society.

7           (3) Best Buddies is determined to end social  
8           isolation for people with intellectual disabilities by  
9           promoting meaningful friendships between them and  
10          their non-disabled peers in order to help increase the  
11          self-esteem, confidence, and abilities of people with  
12          and without intellectual disabilities.

13          (4) Since 1989, Best Buddies has enhanced the  
14          lives of people with intellectual disabilities by pro-  
15          viding opportunities for 1-to-1 friendships and inte-  
16          grated employment.

17          (5) Best Buddies is an international organiza-  
18          tion spanning 1,300 middle school, high school, and  
19          college campuses.

20          (6) Best Buddies implements programs that  
21          will positively impact more than 400,000 individuals  
22          in 2009 and expects to impact 500,000 people by  
23          2010.

24          (7) The Best Buddies Middle Schools program  
25          matches middle school students with intellectual dis-

1 abilities with other middle school students and sup-  
2 ports 1-to-1 friendships between them.

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

7 (9) The Best Buddies Colleges program  
8 matches adults with intellectual disabilities with col-  
9 lege students and creates 1-to-1 friendships between  
10 them.

11 (10) The Best Buddies e-Buddies program sup-  
12 ports e-mail friendships between people with and  
13 without intellectual disabilities.

14 (11) The Best Buddies Citizens program pairs  
15 adults with intellectual disabilities in 1-to-1 friend-  
16 ships with other individuals in the corporate and  
17 civic communities.

18 (12) The Best Buddies Jobs program promotes  
19 the integration of people with intellectual disabilities  
20 into the community through supported employment.

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

22 (1) provide support to Best Buddies to increase  
23 participation in and public awareness about Best  
24 Buddies programs that serve people with intellectual  
25 disabilities;

- 1           (2) dispel negative stereotypes about people  
 2       with intellectual disabilities; and
- 3           (3) promote the extraordinary contributions of  
 4       people with intellectual disabilities.

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

6       (a) EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Edu-  
 7       cation may award grants to, or enter into contracts or co-  
 8       operative agreements with, Best Buddies to carry out ac-  
 9       tivities to promote the expansion of Best Buddies, includ-  
 10      ing activities to increase the participation of people with  
 11      intellectual disabilities in social relationships and other as-  
 12      pects of community life, including education and employ-  
 13      ment, within the United States.

14      (b) LIMITATIONS.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts appropriated to  
 16      carry out this Act may not be used for direct treat-  
 17      ment of diseases, medical conditions, or mental  
 18      health conditions.

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

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

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

2 (a) APPLICATION.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant,  
4 contract, or cooperative agreement under section  
5 3(a), Best Buddies shall submit an application at  
6 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
7 formation as the Secretary of Education may re-  
8 quire.

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

11 (A) A description of activities to be carried  
12 out under the grant, contract, or cooperative  
13 agreement.

14 (B) Information on specific measurable  
15 goals and objectives to be achieved through ac-  
16 tivities carried out under the grant, contract, or  
17 cooperative agreement.

18 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

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

24 (2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, each annual re-  
25 port under this subsection shall describe the degree  
26 to which progress has been made toward meeting the

1       specific measurable goals and objectives described in  
2       the applications submitted under subsection (a).

3   **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4       There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
5   retary of Education for grants, contracts, or cooperative  
6   agreements under section 3(a), \$10,000,000 for fiscal year  
7   2010, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the  
8   4 succeeding fiscal years.

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