

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4965

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to improve childhood care and education for local governments and local educational agencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2014

Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. VEASEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to improve childhood care and education for local governments and local educational agencies.

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 “Pre-K for USA Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR IMPROVING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE**
2 **AND EDUCATION.**

3 Subpart 1 of part D of title V of the Elementary and
4 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7243 et
5 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 5415. GRANTS FOR IMPROVING EARLY CHILDHOOD**
7 **CARE AND EDUCATION.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
9 under subsection (f), the Secretary jointly with the Sec-
10 retary of Health and Human Services and on such terms
11 as such Secretaries set forth in an interagency agreement,
12 shall make competitive grants to qualified entities for ac-
13 tivities that build the capacity to develop, enhance, or ex-
14 pand high-quality preschool programs, including com-
15 prehensive services and family engagement, for preschool-
16 aged children.

17 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—Each qualified entity that de-
18 sires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an
19 application to the Secretaries at such time, in such man-
20 ner, and containing such information as the Secretaries
21 may require.

22 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, EVALUATION, AND
23 OTHER NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Secretaries may use
24 up to 3 percent of the funds appropriated under sub-
25 section (f) for technical assistance, evaluation, and other

1 national activities related to awarding grants under this
2 section.

3 “(d) REPORT.—

4 “(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 days
5 prior to the announcement of a competition under
6 this section, the Secretaries shall submit a report
7 outlining the proposed competition and priorities to
8 the Congress on the activities carried out under this
9 section.

10 “(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretaries shall
11 submit a report to Congress on the activities carried
12 out under this section, including, at a minimum, in-
13 formation on the following:

14 “(A) The progress of each qualified entity
15 in moving toward fulfilling criteria outlined in
16 the entity’s application.

17 “(B) The extent to which the qualified en-
18 tities used grants under this section to expand
19 a high-quality preschool program.

20 “(C) The costs and barriers to such expan-
21 sion, including building and renovating pre-
22 school facilities so that such facilities are high-
23 quality and age and developmentally appro-
24 priate.

25 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM.—

2 The term ‘high-quality preschool program’ means an
3 early learning program that includes structural ele-
4 ments that are evidence-based and nationally recog-
5 nized (such as Head Start program performance
6 standards or research published by the National In-
7 stitute for Early Education) as important for ensur-
8 ing program quality, including at a minimum:

9 “(A) High staff qualifications, including a
10 teacher with a bachelor degree in early child-
11 hood education or a bachelor degree in any field
12 with a State-approved alternate pathway, which
13 may include coursework, clinical practice, and
14 evidence of knowledge of content and pedagogy
15 relating to early childhood, and teaching assist-
16 ants with appropriate credentials.

17 “(B) High-quality professional develop-
18 ment for all staff.

19 “(C) A staff-child ratio of no more than
20 1:10.

21 “(D) A class size of no more than 20.

22 “(E) A full-day program.

23 “(F) Full inclusion of children with disabil-
24 ities.

1 “(G) Developmentally appropriate, evi-
2 dence-based curricula and learning environ-
3 ments that are aligned with the State early
4 learning and development standards, for at
5 least the year prior to kindergarten entry.

6 “(H) Individualized accommodations and
7 supports so that all children can access and
8 participate fully in learning activities.

9 “(I) Instructional staff salaries comparable
10 to kindergarten through grade 12 teaching
11 staff.

12 “(J) Program evaluation to ensure contin-
13 uous improvement.

14 “(K) Onsite or accessible comprehensive
15 services for children.

16 “(L) Evidence-based health and safety
17 standards.

18 “(2) QUALIFIED ENTITY.—The term ‘qualified
19 entity’ means a local educational agency or a local
20 government entity.

21 “(3) SECRETARIES.—The term ‘Secretaries’
22 means the Secretary of Education and the Secretary
23 of Health and Human Services.

24 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be

1 necessary to carry out this section for each of the fiscal
2 years 2015 through 2024.”.

3 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

4 The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary
5 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301
6 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating
7 to section 5414 the following:

“Sec. 5415. Grants for improving early childhood care and education.”.

