

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5623

To establish a National Parents Corps Program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. LEWIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To establish a National Parents Corps Program, 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 “National Parents  
5       Corps Act of 2014”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds as follows:

8               (1) Nearly 25 percent of children in the United  
9       States ages 12 to 17 have used an illicit drug in  
10       their lifetime, according to the Substance Abuse and

1 Mental Health Administration’s 2012 National Sur-  
2 vey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).

3 (2) The American Lung Association states, ap-  
4 proximately 4,000 children under age 18 try their  
5 first cigarette and more than 950 of them will be-  
6 come new, regular daily smokers. Moreover, accord-  
7 ing to NSDUH, among children ages 12 to 17 who  
8 smoked cigarettes in the last month, 54.6 percent  
9 also used an illicit drug.

10 (3) The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids says  
11 parents have more influence over their children than  
12 friends, music, TV, the Internet, and celebrities. It  
13 adds, children whose parents teach them about drug  
14 risks are significantly less likely to use drugs.

15 (4) In response to concerns about youth vio-  
16 lence and drug, tobacco, and alcohol use by youth,  
17 the White House unveiled the Parents Corps in  
18 2003. It was initially a 3-year initiative operating in  
19 9 States to bring together citizenship, service, and  
20 responsibility to empower parents to keep their chil-  
21 dren, schools, and communities drug-free.

22 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL PARENTS CORPS PROGRAM.**

23 (a) GRANT TO ESTABLISH THE PROGRAM.—Subject  
24 to the availability of appropriations to carry out this Act,  
25 the Administrator shall, not later than 3 months after the

1 date of the enactment of this Act, award a grant to an  
2 eligible nonprofit entity to establish a National Parents  
3 Corps Program (referred to in this Act as the “Program”)  
4 to promote safety, combat youth violence, and combat  
5 drug and alcohol abuse in schools in the United States.  
6 The eligible nonprofit entity awarded such grant shall be  
7 known as the “NPCP Nonprofit Partner”.

8 (b) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The NPCP Nonprofit  
9 Partner shall use the grant awarded under this section  
10 to establish and administer the Program, which shall in-  
11 clude—

12 (1) employing Parent Leaders to carry out the  
13 Program at eligible schools that are selected to host  
14 Parent Leaders, in accordance with sections 4 and  
15 5; and

16 (2) working with schools, parents of children  
17 enrolled in schools, local nonprofit organizations,  
18 and law enforcement agencies and officers to pro-  
19 mote safety, combat youth violence, and combat  
20 drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse in schools.

21 **SEC. 4. PARTICIPATION OF SCHOOLS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the  
23 date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the  
24 NPCP Nonprofit Partner shall solicit applications from el-  
25 igible schools desiring to participate in the Program by

1 hosting a Parent Leader. Each eligible school selected to  
2 host a Parent Leader shall enter into a memorandum of  
3 understanding with the NPCP Nonprofit Partner—

4           (1) in which the eligible school agrees to partici-  
5 pate in the Program and host a Parent Leader for  
6 the number of years that is equal to the number of  
7 grade levels taught at the school; and

8           (2) that outlines the parameters and goals of  
9 hosting a Parent Leader and carrying out the Pro-  
10 gram at the eligible school, including how the Parent  
11 Leader and the operation of the Program will ad-  
12 dress the cultural, social, and crime prevention needs  
13 and goals of the students at such school.

14       (b) SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting eligi-  
15 ble schools to host Parent Leaders under this Act, the  
16 NPCP Nonprofit Partner shall ensure that, to the extent  
17 practicable, the eligible schools selected represent  
18 schools—

19           (1) that are located in a variety of geographical  
20 regions in the United States;

21           (2) in urban, rural, and suburban areas; and

22           (3) in ethnically and economically diverse com-  
23 munities.

1 **SEC. 5. PARENT LEADERS.**

2 (a) PARENT LEADER FOR EACH SCHOOL.—For each  
3 eligible school selected to participate in the Program as  
4 a host school under section 4, the NPCP Nonprofit Part-  
5 ner shall, after consultation with the principal of the se-  
6 lected school, solicit applications for, hire, and employ one  
7 Parent Leader. The Nonprofit Partner shall use the grant  
8 funds provided under this Act to train, supervise, support,  
9 and provide a salary and benefits to each Parent Leader.

10 (b) DUTIES OF PARENT LEADERS.—Each Parent  
11 Leader employed by the Nonprofit Partner shall, with re-  
12 spect to the eligible school hosting the Parent Leader—

13 (1) educate and mobilize parents of students at  
14 the school to combat criminal and gang activity and  
15 prevent students from social, cultural, and commer-  
16 cial forces that encourage children and adolescents  
17 to initiate the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco;

18 (2) create a delivery system to provide parents  
19 of students at the school with information regarding  
20 science-based prevention and analysis related to  
21 early recognition of behaviors and traits that may  
22 lead to or indicate drug, alcohol, and tobacco use  
23 and abuse, gang activity, and violence;

24 (3) work with school officials, other parents of  
25 students at the school, and students at the school to  
26 develop programs and practices to treat, prevent,

1 and reduce violence and drug, alcohol, and tobacco  
2 addiction for students at the school;

3 (4) assist parents of students at the school and  
4 school administrators with finding professional as-  
5 sistance for any child who—

6 (A) is using drugs, including referrals to  
7 professionals who can assess the needs of the  
8 child for counseling, treatment, and other ap-  
9 propriate assistance; or

10 (B) is engaged in violent activities or gang  
11 activities;

12 (5) recruit and train parent and student volun-  
13 teers from the school to participate in drug and vio-  
14 lence prevention and education outreach and pro-  
15 gramming; and

16 (6) consult with the NPCP Nonprofit Partner,  
17 school administrators, local government authorities,  
18 local nonprofit organizations, and other parents to  
19 develop best practices and training models related to  
20 the prevention of school violence and drug, alcohol,  
21 and tobacco use and abuse by students.

22 (c) PARENT LEADER ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to  
23 be employed as a Parent Leader under this Act, an indi-  
24 vidual shall—

1           (1) be the parent (as such term is defined in  
2           section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
3           cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) of at least one  
4           student who will be enrolled, during the first year  
5           the individual will be employed as a Parent Leader,  
6           in the lowest grade level offered at the school that  
7           will host the Parent Leader;

8           (2) not be employed full-time at any position  
9           other than as a Parent Leader;

10          (3) complete a background check, including  
11          criminal records checks, fingerprint-based checks of  
12          State and national crime information databases (as  
13          defined in section 534(f)(3)(A) of title 28, United  
14          States Code), checks in any available child abuse  
15          and neglect registries, and checks in any available  
16          sex offender registries; and

17          (4) enter into an agreement with the NPCP  
18          Nonprofit Partner to serve as a Parent Leader for  
19          a number of years that is equal to the number of  
20          years normally required for a student to complete all  
21          of the grade levels offered at the school that will  
22          host the Parent Leader (as determined by the  
23          school), except that the individual shall not be re-  
24          quired to continue to serve as Parent Leader in the  
25          case of an extreme, unforeseen circumstance (such

1 as death, disability, relocation, or criminal activity)  
2 that prevents the individual from completing the  
3 term of service required under this paragraph.

4 (d) VACANCIES.—If an individual who is employed as  
5 a Parent Leader is unable to complete the term of service  
6 required under subsection (c)(4), the NPCP Nonprofit  
7 Partner shall, after consultation with the host school at  
8 which the Parent Leader was serving, promptly solicit ap-  
9 plications for, hire, and employ another individual to serve  
10 as Parent Leader at such school, in accordance with the  
11 requirements of this section.

12 **SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

13 (a) REPORTS BY PARENT LEADERS.—Not less than  
14 once each calendar quarter during each year a Parent  
15 Leader is employed by the NPCP Nonprofit Partner, the  
16 Parent Leader shall submit to the NPCP Nonprofit Part-  
17 ner and the school hosting the Parent Leader a report  
18 including activities carried out by the Parent Leader to  
19 carry out the Program, the results of such activities, best  
20 practices observed and used by the Parent Leader to carry  
21 out the Program, and any other information the Parent  
22 Leader, the NPCP Nonprofit Partner, or the school  
23 hosting the Parent Leader determine to be appropriate.

24 (b) REPORTS BY NPCP NONPROFIT PARTNER.—Not  
25 later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of

1 this Act, and every 6 months thereafter, the NPCP Non-  
2 profit Partner shall prepare and submit to the Adminis-  
3 trator a report on the progress and effectiveness of the  
4 Program, including—

5 (1) statistics, trends, and other data analyzing  
6 whether the Program is effective at preventing  
7 school violence and drug, alcohol, and tobacco use  
8 and abuse by students;

9 (2) a summary of the reports submitted by Par-  
10 ent Leaders; and

11 (3) the results and best practices reported by  
12 the Parent Leader at each school hosting a Parent  
13 Leader.

14 (c) REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATOR.—Not later than  
15 one year after the date of the enactment of this section,  
16 and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall prepare  
17 and submit to the Attorney General and the appropriate  
18 Congressional committees a report relating to the progress  
19 and effectiveness of the Program.

20 **SEC. 7. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

21 It is the sense of the Congress that eligible schools  
22 selected to host a Parent Leader in accordance with sec-  
23 tion 4 should take such actions as may be necessary to  
24 secure funding to employ a Parent Leader to carry out

1 the Program after Federal funding is no longer available  
2 to carry out this Act.

3 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
6 trator” means the Administrator of the Office of Ju-  
7 venile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

8 (2) ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT ENTITY.—The term  
9 “eligible nonprofit entity” means an organization de-  
10 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue  
11 Code of 1986 that—

12 (A) was operating on the day before the  
13 date of the enactment of this Act;

14 (B) has demonstrated experience admin-  
15 istering Federal grants in a fiscally responsible  
16 manner, as determined by the Administrator;

17 (C) has administered national programs  
18 relating to addiction and parenting;

19 (D) has developed and administered pro-  
20 grams similar to the Program authorized under  
21 this Act;

22 (E) has worked with the Corporation for  
23 National and Community Service, the Depart-  
24 ment of Health and Human Services, and the  
25 Department of Justice in assessing and devel-

1           oping initiatives relating to youth drug preven-  
2           tion and parental involvement; and

3                   (F) has as its mission to focus on child  
4           and youth drug prevention.

5           (3) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term “eligible  
6           school” means a public middle school or secondary  
7           school (as such term is defined in section 9101 of  
8           the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
9           1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) that has demonstrated a  
10          commitment, as determined by the Secretary, to—

11                   (A) increasing parental involvement in the  
12          school; and

13                   (B) reducing drug, alcohol, and tobacco  
14          abuse by students enrolled in the school.

15           (4) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
16          TEES.—The term “appropriate Congressional com-  
17          mittees” means the Committee on the Judiciary, the  
18          Committee on Education and Labor, and the Appro-  
19          priations Committee in the House of Representa-  
20          tives, and the Committee on the Judiciary, the Com-  
21          mittee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions,  
22          and the Appropriations Committee in the Senate.

23 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24           (a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other amounts oth-  
25          erwise appropriated to carry out the purposes of this Act,

1 there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this  
2 Act \$5,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through  
3 2025.

4 (b) FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES.—The Admin-  
5 istrator, the NPCP Nonprofit Partner, and eligible schools  
6 selected to host a Parent Leader in accordance with sec-  
7 tion 4 are authorized to solicit, receive, and use funding  
8 from State, local, and private sources to carry out the Pro-  
9 gram, including for expenses related to employing Parent  
10 Leaders.

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