

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5839

To amend title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Federal “Grow Your Own Teacher” program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2014

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

A BILL

To amend title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Federal “Grow Your Own Teacher” 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 “Grow Your Own
5 Teacher Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM.**

7 Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education
8 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended by add-
9 ing at the end the following:

1 **“PART E—GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM**

2 **“SEC. 2501. GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available to
 4 carry out this part, the Secretary shall carry out a pro-
 5 gram to make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible
 6 entities, to be used by such entities to train and employ
 7 eligible individuals in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff
 8 teaching positions in accordance with subsection (c).

9 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
 11 tity’ means a consortium consisting of—

12 “(A) a local educational agency that is eli-
 13 gible to receive funds under part A of title I;
 14 and

15 “(B) an institution of higher education
 16 that offers a program, accredited by the State,
 17 for preparing individuals to fulfill all the re-
 18 quirements for receiving a teaching certificate
 19 in the State of the local educational agency de-
 20 scribed in subparagraph (A).

21 “(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible
 22 individual’ means an individual—

23 “(A) who—

24 “(i) received a high school diploma
 25 from a local educational agency described
 26 in paragraph (1)(A); and

1 “(ii) is enrolled in a program to re-
2 ceive a teaching certificate in the State of
3 the local educational agency at an institu-
4 tion of higher education described in para-
5 graph (1)(B); and

6 “(B) is—

7 “(i) a high school graduate who grad-
8 uated not more than 5 years ago;

9 “(ii) a parent of a current or former
10 student of the local educational agency
11 who has a history of working to improve
12 the local educational agency; or

13 “(iii) an education support profes-
14 sional in the local educational agency who
15 works with students in an instructional
16 role.

17 “(3) VETERAN TEACHER.—The term ‘veteran
18 teacher’ means a teacher who has taught in a local
19 educational agency described in paragraph (1)(A)
20 for a period of least 15 years.

21 “(4) STUDENT LOANS.—The term ‘student
22 loans’ means any loans awarded to an eligible indi-
23 vidual under title IV of the Higher Education Act of
24 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

25 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving
2 a grant under this section shall use such grant funds
3 to—

4 “(A) conduct a training program for eligi-
5 ble individuals to be teachers, which shall in-
6 clude requiring such individuals to observe and
7 work with a veteran teacher in a classroom for
8 at least one year;

9 “(B) employ such individuals in hard-to-
10 staff schools and hard-to-staff teaching posi-
11 tions in the local educational agency of the eli-
12 gible entity, with priority given to teaching posi-
13 tions in mathematics, science, special education,
14 world languages, and English as a second lan-
15 guage; and

16 “(C) employ such individuals in a manner
17 that reduces the divergence between the racial
18 diversity of teachers and of students.

19 “(2) OTHER AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—An eli-
20 gible entity receiving a grant under this section may
21 use any grant funds that remain after carrying out
22 paragraph (1) for the following activities:

23 “(A) Helping an eligible individual trained
24 under this section to cover the costs of childcare
25 and other indirect expenses that are reasonably

1 required by the individual to participate in the
2 training program.

3 “(B) Recruiting and counseling eligible in-
4 dividuals, and individuals who are likely to be-
5 come eligible individuals in the near future
6 (such as students soon to receive a high school
7 diploma from a local educational agency de-
8 scribed in subsection (b)(1)(A)), to participate
9 in the training program.

10 “(C) Providing space in the community of
11 the eligible entity to carry out the activities de-
12 scribed in subparagraph (B).

13 “(D) Offering the training program under
14 this section in community settings and to pro-
15 vide tutoring services to supplement the train-
16 ing.

17 “(E) Carrying out any other activities con-
18 sistent with the purposes of this section, as de-
19 termined by the Secretary.

20 “(d) STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts made
22 available to carry out this part, the Secretary is au-
23 thorized to forgive the student loans incurred by an
24 eligible individual who has completed a training pro-
25 gram under this section and has been employed as

1 a teacher in a hard-to-staff school or hard-to-staff
2 teaching position, in an amount not to exceed the
3 total amount of students loans incurred by the indi-
4 vidual for participating in the program.

5 “(2) AMOUNT OF LOAN FORGIVENESS.—The
6 Secretary may forgive—

7 “(A) in the case of an eligible individual
8 who has been employed in a hard-to-staff school
9 or hard-to-staff teaching position for at least 5
10 years, the total amount of the student loans in-
11 curred by the student for participating in a
12 training program under this section; or

13 “(B) in the case of an eligible individual
14 who has been employed in a hard-to-staff school
15 or hard-to-staff teaching position for less than
16 5 years, an amount that is less than the total
17 amount of the student loans incurred by the
18 student for participating in a training program
19 under this section.

20 “(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary is authorized to
21 promulgate any regulations as may be necessary to carry
22 out this section.

23 “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
24 tion shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect the
25 rights, remedies, and procedures afforded school or local

1 educational agency employees under Federal, State, or
2 local laws (including applicable regulations or court or-
3 ders) or under the terms of collective bargaining agree-
4 ments, memoranda of understanding, or other agreements
5 between such employees and their employers.

6 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
8 such sums as may be necessary.”.

