

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 475

To reauthorize the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2013

Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To reauthorize the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Eunice Kennedy Shriver Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS ACT

Sec. 101. Reauthorization.

TITLE II—BEST BUDDIES

Sec. 201. Findings and purpose.

Sec. 202. Assistance for Best Buddies.

Sec. 203. Application and annual report.

Sec. 204. Authorization of appropriations.

1 **TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF** 2 **SPECIAL OLYMPICS ACT**

3 **SEC. 101. REAUTHORIZATION.**

4 Sections 2 through 5 of the Special Olympics Sport
 5 and Empowerment Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15001 note)
 6 are amended to read as follows:

7 **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

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

9 “(1) Special Olympics creates the possibilities
 10 of a world where everybody matters, everybody
 11 counts, and every person contributes.

12 “(2) The Government and the people of the
 13 United States recognize the dignity and value the
 14 giftedness of children and adults with intellectual
 15 disabilities.

16 “(3) The Government and the people of the
 17 United States recognize that children and adults
 18 with intellectual disabilities experience significant
 19 health disparities, including lack of access to pri-
 20 mary care services and difficulties in accessing com-

1 community-based prevention and treatment programs
2 for chronic diseases.

3 “(4) The Government and the people of the
4 United States are determined to end the isolation
5 and stigmatization of people with intellectual disabili-
6 ties, and to ensure that such people are assured of
7 equal opportunities for community participation, ac-
8 cess to appropriate health care, and inclusive edu-
9 cation, and to experience life in a nondiscriminatory
10 manner.

11 “(5) For more than 40 years, Special Olympics
12 has encouraged skill development, sharing, courage,
13 and confidence through year-round sports training
14 and athletic competition for children and adults with
15 intellectual disabilities.

16 “(6) Special Olympics provides year-round
17 sports training and competitive opportunities to
18 more than 4,200,000 athletes with intellectual dis-
19 abilities in 30 individual and team sports and plans
20 to expand the benefits of participation through sport
21 to more than a million additional people with intel-
22 lectual disabilities within the United States and
23 worldwide over the next 5 years.

24 “(7) Research shows that participation in ac-
25 tivities involving both people with intellectual disabili-

1 ities and people without disabilities results in more
2 positive support for inclusion in society, including in
3 schools.

4 “(8) Special Olympics has demonstrated its
5 ability to provide a major positive effect on the qual-
6 ity of life of people with intellectual disabilities, im-
7 proving their health and physical well-being, building
8 their confidence and self-esteem, and giving them a
9 voice to become active and productive members of
10 their communities. In the United States, for exam-
11 ple, adults with intellectual disabilities who have par-
12 ticipated in Special Olympics have a 100 percent
13 greater chance of being employed than adults with
14 intellectual disabilities who have not.

15 “(9) In society as a whole, Special Olympics
16 has become a vehicle and platform for reducing prej-
17 udice, improving public health, promoting inclusion
18 efforts in schools and communities, and encouraging
19 society to value the contributions of all members.

20 “(10) The Government of the United States en-
21 thusiastically supports the Special Olympics move-
22 ment, recognizes its importance in improving the
23 lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their
24 families, and recognizes Special Olympics as a val-

1 ued and important component of the global commu-
2 nity.

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

4 “(1) provide support to Special Olympics to in-
5 crease athlete participation in, and public awareness
6 about, the Special Olympics movement, including ef-
7 forts to promote broader community inclusion;

8 “(2) dispel negative stereotypes and establish
9 positive attitudes about people with intellectual dis-
10 abilities;

11 “(3) build community engagement through
12 sports and related activities; and

13 “(4) promote the extraordinary gifts and con-
14 tributions of people with intellectual disabilities.

15 **“SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS.**

16 “(a) EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of
17 Education may award grants to, or enter into contracts
18 or cooperative agreements with, Special Olympics to carry
19 out each of the following:

20 “(1) Activities to promote the expansion of Spe-
21 cial Olympics, including activities to increase the full
22 participation of people with intellectual disabilities in
23 athletics, sports and recreation, and other inclusive
24 school and community activities with people without
25 disabilities.

1 “(2) The design and implementation of Special
 2 Olympics education programs, including character
 3 education and volunteer programs that support the
 4 purposes of this Act, that can be integrated into
 5 classroom instruction and community settings, and
 6 are consistent with academic content standards.

7 “(b) INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of
 8 State, acting through the Assistant Secretary of State for
 9 Educational and Cultural Affairs, may award grants to,
 10 or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with,
 11 Special Olympics to carry out each of the following:

12 “(1) Activities to increase the participation of
 13 people with intellectual disabilities in Special Olym-
 14 pics outside of the United States.

15 “(2) Activities to improve the awareness outside
 16 of the United States of the abilities of people with
 17 intellectual disabilities and the unique contributions
 18 that people with intellectual disabilities can make to
 19 society, and to promote active support for sports
 20 programs for people with intellectual disabilities.

21 “(c) HEALTHY ATHLETES.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health
 23 and Human Services may award grants to, or enter
 24 into contracts or cooperative agreements with, Spe-
 25 cial Olympics for the implementation of on-site

1 health assessments, screening for health problems,
2 health education, community-based prevention, data
3 collection, and referrals to direct health care serv-
4 ices.

5 “(2) COORDINATION.—Activities under para-
6 graph (1) shall be coordinated with appropriate
7 health care entities, including private health care
8 providers, entities carrying out local, State, Federal,
9 or international programs, and the Department of
10 Health and Human Services, as applicable.

11 “(d) LIMITATION.—Amounts appropriated to carry
12 out this section shall not be used for direct treatment of
13 diseases, medical conditions, or mental health conditions.
14 Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to
15 limit the use of non-Federal funds by Special Olympics.

16 **“SEC. 4. APPLICATION AND ANNUAL REPORT.**

17 “(a) APPLICATION.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant,
19 contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection
20 (a), (b), or (c) of section 3, Special Olympics shall
21 submit an application at such time, in such manner,
22 and containing such information as the Secretary of
23 Education, Secretary of State, or Secretary of
24 Health and Human Services, as applicable, may re-
25 quire.

1 “(2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, an application
2 under this subsection shall contain each of the fol-
3 lowing:

4 “(A) ACTIVITIES.—A description of activi-
5 ties to be carried out with the grant, contract,
6 or cooperative agreement.

7 “(B) MEASURABLE GOALS.—A description
8 of specific measurable annual benchmarks and
9 long-term goals and objectives to be achieved
10 through specified activities carried out with the
11 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement,
12 which specified activities shall include, at a
13 minimum, each of the following activities:

14 “(i) Activities to increase the full par-
15 ticipation of people with intellectual dis-
16 abilities in athletics, sports and recreation,
17 and other inclusive school and community
18 activities with people without disabilities.

19 “(ii) Education programs that dispel
20 negative stereotypes about people with in-
21 tellectual disabilities.

22 “(iii) Activities to increase the partici-
23 pation of people with intellectual disabil-
24 ities in Special Olympics outside of the

1 United States and promote volunteerism
2 on behalf of such activities.

3 “(iv) Health-related activities as de-
4 scribed in section 3(c).

5 “(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of
7 any funds for a program under subsection (a), (b),
8 or (c) of section 3, Special Olympics shall agree to
9 submit an annual report at such time, in such man-
10 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-
11 retary of Education, Secretary of State, or Secretary
12 of Health and Human Services, as applicable, may
13 require.

14 “(2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, each annual
15 report under this subsection shall describe—

16 “(A) the degree to which progress has been
17 made toward meeting the annual benchmarks
18 and long-term goals and objectives described in
19 the applications submitted under subsection (a);
20 and

21 “(B) demographic data about Special
22 Olympics participants, including the number of
23 people with intellectual disabilities served in
24 each program referred to in paragraph (1).

1 **“SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated—

3 “(1) for grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
4 ments under section 3(a), \$9,500,000 for fiscal year
5 2014, and such sums as may be necessary for each
6 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years;

7 “(2) for grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
8 ments under section 3(b), \$4,500,000 for fiscal year
9 2014, and such sums as may be necessary for each
10 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years; and

11 “(3) for grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
12 ments under section 3(c), \$8,500,000 for fiscal year
13 2014, and such sums as may be necessary for each
14 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.

15 **TITLE II—BEST BUDDIES**

16 **SEC. 201. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

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

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

21 (2) Best Buddies is dedicated to helping people
22 with intellectual disabilities become part of main-
23 stream society.

24 (3) Best Buddies is determined to end social
25 isolation for people with intellectual disabilities by
26 promoting meaningful friendships between them and

1 their typical peers in order to help increase the self-
2 esteem, confidence, and abilities of people with and
3 without intellectual disabilities.

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

8 (5) Best Buddies is an international organiza-
9 tion spanning 1,500 middle school, high school, and
10 college campuses.

11 (6) Best Buddies implements programs that
12 will positively impact more than 700,000 individuals
13 in 2013.

14 (7) The Best Buddies Middle Schools program
15 matches middle school students with intellectual dis-
16 abilities with other middle school students and sup-
17 ports 1-to-1 friendships between them.

18 (8) The Best Buddies High Schools program
19 matches high school students with intellectual dis-
20 abilities with other high school students and sup-
21 ports 1-to-1 friendships between them.

22 (9) The Best Buddies Colleges program
23 matches adults with intellectual disabilities with col-
24 lege students and creates 1-to-1 friendships between
25 them.

1 (10) The Best Buddies e-Buddies program sup-
 2 ports e-mail friendships between people with and
 3 without intellectual disabilities.

4 (11) The Best Buddies Citizens program pairs
 5 adults with intellectual disabilities in 1-to-1 friend-
 6 ships with other people in the corporate and civic
 7 communities.

8 (12) The Best Buddies Jobs program promotes
 9 the integration of people with intellectual disabilities
 10 into the community through supported employment.

11 (13) The Best Buddies Ambassadors program
 12 educates and empowers people with intellectual dis-
 13 abilities to be leaders and public speakers in their
 14 schools, communities, and workplaces. Best Buddies
 15 Ambassadors prepares people with intellectual dis-
 16 abilities to become active agents of change.

17 (14) Best Buddies Promoters empowers youth
 18 to become advocates for people with intellectual dis-
 19 abilities. Students who take part in Best Buddies
 20 Promoters are introduced to the disability rights
 21 movement and the importance of inclusion through
 22 local awareness events.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this title are to—

24 (1) provide support to Best Buddies to increase
 25 participation in and public awareness about Best

1 Buddies programs that serve people with intellectual
2 disabilities;

3 (2) dispel negative stereotypes about people
4 with intellectual disabilities; and

5 (3) promote the extraordinary contributions of
6 people with intellectual disabilities.

7 **SEC. 202. ASSISTANCE FOR BEST BUDDIES.**

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

16 (b) LIMITATIONS.—Amounts appropriated to carry
17 out this title may not be used for direct treatment of dis-
18 eases, medical conditions, or mental health conditions.

19 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title
20 shall be construed to limit the use of non-Federal funds
21 by Best Buddies.

22 **SEC. 203. APPLICATION AND ANNUAL REPORT.**

23 (a) APPLICATION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant,
25 contract, or cooperative agreement under section

1 202(a), Best Buddies shall submit an application at
2 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
3 formation as the Secretary of Education may re-
4 quire.

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

7 (A) A description of activities to be carried
8 out under the grant, contract, or cooperative
9 agreement.

10 (B) Information on specific measurable
11 goals and objectives to be achieved through ac-
12 tivities carried out under the grant, contract, or
13 cooperative agreement.

14 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receipt of
16 any funds under section 202(a), Best Buddies shall
17 agree to submit an annual report at such time, in
18 such manner, and containing such information as
19 the Secretary of Education may require.

20 (2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, each annual re-
21 port under this subsection shall describe the degree
22 to which progress has been made toward meeting the
23 specific measurable goals and objectives described in
24 the applications submitted under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
3 retary of Education for grants, contracts, or cooperative
4 agreements under section 202(a), \$4,000,000 for fiscal
5 year 2014 and such sums as may be necessary for each
6 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

○