

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6472

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Volunteer Teacher Advisory Committee and a Volunteer Parents and Families Advisory Committee.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 7, 2016

Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Ms. STEFANIK) 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 establish a Volunteer Teacher Advisory Committee and a Volunteer Parents and Families Advisory Committee.

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 “Teachers and Parents
5 at the Table Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VOLUNTEER TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

2 The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by inserting
4 after section 1004 (20 U.S.C. 6304) the following:

5 **“SEC. 1005. VOLUNTEER TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

6 “(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

7 “(1) Expert teachers offer an important re-
8 source to policymakers as they can bring their exper-
9 tise and perspective from the classroom to inform
10 policy so that positive outcomes for all students will
11 be maximized.

12 “(2) State Teachers of the Year represent a
13 valuable resource with a body of expert knowledge
14 and skill about instructional practice, 21st century
15 learning, and school functioning that can be infused
16 into policymaking to promote better outcomes for
17 prekindergarten, elementary, and secondary stu-
18 dents.

19 “(3) State Teachers of the Year have been se-
20 lected by their communities and States as models of
21 their profession and represent every State in the Na-
22 tion and every discipline and grade level.

23 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
24 lish an advisory committee, to be known as the Volunteer
25 Teacher Advisory Committee (referred to in this section
26 as the ‘Committee’).

1 “(c) DUTY.—The duty of the Committee shall be to
2 monitor the effects of this Act, on the ground and in class-
3 rooms.

4 “(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the
6 Committee shall consist of 10 teachers employed in
7 a public elementary school and 10 teachers employed
8 in a public secondary school who—

9 “(A) are past or present finalists or State
10 Teachers of the Year, or are nominated from
11 organizations representing teachers and have
12 demonstrated similar evidence of expertise;

13 “(B) have experience working with policy
14 development;

15 “(C) have a demonstrated history of work-
16 ing as a teacher leader in the policy arena; and

17 “(D) have submitted an application to the
18 Secretary to serve on the Committee.

19 “(2) LIST; APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall
20 compile a list of teachers submitting applications
21 under paragraph (1)(D). The members of the Com-
22 mittee shall be appointed as follows:

23 “(A) The Secretary shall appoint 4 teach-
24 ers from the list.

1 “(B) The Majority Leader of the Senate
2 shall appoint 4 teachers from the list.

3 “(C) The Minority Leader of the Senate
4 shall appoint 4 teachers from the list.

5 “(D) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives shall appoint 4 teachers from the
7 list.

8 “(E) The Minority Leader of the House of
9 Representatives shall appoint 4 teachers from
10 the list.

11 “(3) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.—

12 “(A) FINALISTS OR STATE TEACHERS OF
13 THE YEAR.—Not less than half of the members
14 of the Committee shall be past or present final-
15 ists or State Teachers of the Year.

16 “(B) REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENT.—
17 The members of the Committee shall represent
18 the diversity of the teaching workforce from
19 multiple geographic, grade level, and specialty
20 areas.

21 “(4) TERM.—Each member of the Committee
22 shall serve on the Committee for a 3-year staggered
23 term.

24 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall sub-
2 mit to Congress and the Secretary—

3 “(A) on an annual basis, a report on the
4 monitoring carried out under subsection (c);
5 and

6 “(B) on a quarterly basis, updates on such
7 monitoring.

8 “(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report sub-
9 mitted under paragraph (1) shall include, at a min-
10 imum, the following:

11 “(A) The effects of this Act on the teach-
12 ing profession.

13 “(B) The effects of this Act on schools and
14 classrooms.

15 “(C) The effects of this Act on students,
16 families, and communities.

17 “(D) Recommendations for strengthening
18 policy and policy implementation in order to
19 meet the goals of the Act.

20 “(f) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The following
21 additional requirements shall apply to the Committee:

22 “(1) The Committee shall meet in person at
23 least once per year for deliberation, with all travel
24 expenses paid for by the Secretary.

1 “(2) The Committee shall be available for con-
 2 sultation with officials at the Department and the
 3 authorizing Committees of Congress regarding the
 4 impact of this Act on students, families, and the
 5 teaching profession.

6 “(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘State
 7 Teacher of the Year’ means any person who has been rec-
 8 ognized as a State Teacher of the Year by the Council
 9 of Chief State School Officers.

10 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts
 11 appropriated to, and available at the discretion of, the Sec-
 12 retary for programmatic and administrative expenditures
 13 for fiscal years 2017 through 2021, a total of \$500,000
 14 shall be used to establish and carry out the functions of
 15 the Committee established under this section.”.

16 **SEC. 3. VOLUNTEER PARENTS AND FAMILIES ADVISORY**
 17 **COMMITTEE.**

18 The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
 19 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), as amended by section 2
 20 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after section
 21 1005 (as added by such section 2) the following:

22 **“SEC. 1006. VOLUNTEER PARENTS AND FAMILIES ADVI-**
 23 **SORY COMMITTEE.**

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

1 “(1) Parents and families have a major influ-
2 ence on their children’s achievement in school and
3 throughout life.

4 “(2) Parents and family members offer an im-
5 portant resource to policymakers as they provide a
6 unique perspective as consumers of our Nation’s
7 public schools.

8 “(3) All parents and family members—regard-
9 less of income, education, or cultural background—
10 are involved in their child’s learning and want their
11 child to reach their fullest potential.

12 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
13 lish an advisory committee, to be known as the Volunteer
14 Parents and Families Advisory Committee (referred to in
15 this section as the ‘Committee’).

16 “(c) DUTIES AND FOCUS.—The duty of the Com-
17 mittee shall be to monitor the effects of this Act on chil-
18 dren and families, and review and analyze implementation
19 of State and local parent and family engagement policies,
20 school-parent compacts, and other family engagement ac-
21 tivities described in section 1116 and part E of title IV.

22 “(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the
24 Committee shall consist of 10 parents or family
25 members of children enrolled in a public elementary

1 school and 10 parents or family members of children
2 enrolled in a public secondary school who—

3 “(A) have a demonstrated history of paren-
4 tal involvement and family engagement in
5 schools; and

6 “(B) have submitted an application to the
7 Secretary to serve on the Committee.

8 “(2) LIST; APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall
9 compile a list of parents and family members sub-
10 mitting applications under paragraph (1)(B). The
11 members of the Committee shall be appointed as fol-
12 lows:

13 “(A) The Secretary shall appoint 4 parents
14 or family members from the list.

15 “(B) The Majority Leader of the Senate
16 shall appoint 4 parents or family members from
17 the list.

18 “(C) The Minority Leader of the Senate
19 shall appoint 4 parents or family members from
20 the list.

21 “(D) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives shall appoint 4 parents or family
23 members from the list.

1 “(E) The Minority Leader of the House of
2 Representatives shall appoint 4 parents or fam-
3 ily members from the list.

4 “(3) REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENT.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The members of the
6 Committee shall represent multiple geographic
7 areas and a diversity of students, and shall in-
8 clude at least one parent or family member rep-
9 resenting each of the following student groups:

10 “(i) Economically disadvantaged stu-
11 dents.

12 “(ii) Students from major racial and
13 ethnic groups.

14 “(iii) Children with disabilities.

15 “(iv) English learners.

16 “(B) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—Consider-
17 ation should also be given to representation of
18 students’ gender identity and migrant status in
19 the appointment of members of the Committee.

20 “(4) RESEARCH ADVISORS.—The Secretary
21 may appoint not more than 5 research advisors to
22 the Committee, such as researchers, practitioners or
23 representatives from national nonprofit organiza-
24 tions with expertise in family engagement in edu-

1 cation, to make data-driven recommendations re-
2 garding family engagement in education metrics.

3 “(5) TERM.—Each member of the Committee
4 shall serve on the Committee for a 3-year staggered
5 term.

6 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall sub-
8 mit to Congress and the Secretary—

9 “(A) on an annual basis, a report and pol-
10 icy recommendations on the review and analysis
11 carried out under subsection (c); and

12 “(B) on a quarterly basis, updates on such
13 review and analysis.

14 “(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report sub-
15 mitted under paragraph (1) shall include, at a min-
16 imum, the following:

17 “(A) The effects of this Act on students,
18 families, and communities.

19 “(B) The effects of this Act on parental
20 involvement and family engagement in edu-
21 cation, including schools and classrooms.

22 “(C) Direction for State education authori-
23 ties and local education authorities for imple-
24 menting written family engagement policies
25 under section 1116 and part E of title IV.

1 “(D) Recommendations for strengthening
2 policy and policy implementation in order to
3 meet the goals of the Act.

4 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) The term ‘family engagement’ means a
6 shared responsibility of families and schools for stu-
7 dent success—

8 “(A) in which schools and community-
9 based organizations are committed to reaching
10 out to engage families in meaningful ways and
11 families are committed actively to support their
12 children’s learning and development;

13 “(B) that is continuous from birth through
14 young adulthood; and

15 “(C) that reinforces learning that takes
16 place in the home, school, and community.

17 “(2) The term ‘parental involvement’ means the
18 participation of parents or family members in reg-
19 ular, two-way, and meaningful communication in-
20 volving student academic learning and other school
21 activities, including ensuring—

22 “(A) that parents or family members play
23 an integral role in assisting their child’s learn-
24 ing;

1 “(B) that parents or family members are
2 encouraged to be actively involved in their
3 child’s education at school;

4 “(C) that parents or family members are
5 full partners in their child’s education and are
6 included, as appropriate, in decisionmaking and
7 on advisory committees to assist in the edu-
8 cation of their child; and

9 “(D) the carrying out of other activities,
10 such as those described in section 1116.

11 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts
12 appropriated to, and available at the discretion of, the Sec-
13 retary for programmatic and administrative expenditures
14 for fiscal years 2017 through 2021, a total of \$500,000
15 shall be used to establish and carry out the functions of
16 the Committee established under this section.”.

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