

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 251

To aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 26, 2015

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education.

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 “Prescribe A Book
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PEDIATRIC INVOLVEMENT IN READING AND EDU-**
7 **CATION.**

8 Part D of title V of the Elementary and Secondary
9 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7241 et seq.) is amend-
10 ed by adding at the end the following:

1 **“Subpart 22—Pediatric Early Literacy Programs**

2 **“SEC. 5621. DEFINITIONS.**

3 “In this subpart:

4 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
5 tity’ means a nonprofit organization that has, as de-
6 termined by the Secretary, demonstrated effective-
7 ness in the following areas:

8 “(A) Providing peer-to-peer training to
9 healthcare providers in research-based methods
10 of literacy promotion as part of routine pedi-
11 atric health supervision visits.

12 “(B) Delivering a training curriculum
13 through a variety of medical education settings,
14 including residency training, continuing medical
15 education, and national pediatric conferences.

16 “(C) Providing technical assistance to local
17 healthcare facilities to effectively implement a
18 high-quality Pediatric Early Literacy Program.

19 “(D) Offering opportunities for local
20 healthcare facilities to obtain books at signifi-
21 cant discounts, as described in section 5626.

22 “(E) Integrating the latest developmental
23 and educational research into the training cur-
24 riculum for healthcare providers described in
25 subparagraph (B).

1 “(2) PEDIATRIC EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM.—

2 The term ‘Pediatric Early Literacy Program’ means
3 a program that—

4 “(A) creates and implements a 3-part
5 model through which—

6 “(i) healthcare providers, doctors, and
7 nurses, trained in research-based methods
8 of early language and literacy promotion,
9 encourage parents to read aloud to their
10 young children, and offer developmentally
11 appropriate recommendations and strate-
12 gies to parents for the purpose of reading
13 aloud to their children;

14 “(ii) healthcare providers, at health
15 supervision visits, provide each child be-
16 tween the ages of 6 months and 5 years a
17 new, developmentally appropriate chil-
18 dren’s book to take home and keep; and

19 “(iii) healthcare facilities create lit-
20 eracy-rich environments that include gent-
21 ly-used books for waiting room use or vol-
22 unteer readers to model for parents the
23 techniques of reading aloud to young chil-
24 dren;

1 “(B) demonstrates, through research pub-
2 lished in peer-reviewed journals, effectiveness in
3 positively altering parent behavior regarding
4 reading aloud to children, and improving ex-
5 pressive and receptive language in young chil-
6 dren; and

7 “(C) receives the endorsement of nationally
8 recognized medical associations and academies.

9 **“SEC. 5622. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

10 “The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligi-
11 ble entities to enable the eligible entities to implement Pe-
12 diatric Early Literacy Programs.

13 **“SEC. 5623. APPLICATIONS.**

14 “An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant
15 under section 5622 shall submit an application to the Sec-
16 retary at such time, in such manner, and including such
17 information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

18 **“SEC. 5624. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

19 “An eligible entity receiving a grant under section
20 5622 shall provide, either directly or through private con-
21 tributions, non-Federal matching funds equal to not less
22 than 50 percent of the grant received by the eligible entity
23 under section 5622. Such matching funds may be in cash
24 or in-kind.

1 **“SEC. 5625. USE OF GRANT FUNDS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving a
3 grant under section 5622 shall—

4 “(1) enter into contracts with private nonprofit
5 organizations, or with public agencies, selected based
6 on the criteria described in subsection (b), under
7 which each contractor will agree to establish and op-
8 erate a Pediatric Early Literacy Program;

9 “(2) provide such training and technical assist-
10 ance to each contractor of the eligible entity as may
11 be necessary to carry out this subpart; and

12 “(3) include such other terms and conditions in
13 an agreement with a contractor as the Secretary de-
14 termines to be appropriate to ensure the effective-
15 ness of such program.

16 “(b) CONTRACTOR CRITERIA.—Each contractor shall
17 be selected under subsection (a)(1) on the basis of the ex-
18 tent to which the contractor gives priority to serving a
19 substantial number or percentage of at-risk children, in-
20 cluding—

21 “(1) children from families with an income
22 below 200 percent of the poverty line applicable to
23 a family of the size involved, particularly such chil-
24 dren in high-poverty areas;

25 “(2) children without adequate medical insur-
26 ance;

1 “(3) children enrolled in a State Medicaid pro-
2 gram, established under title XIX of the Social Se-
3 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), or in the State
4 Children’s Health Insurance Program established
5 under title XXI of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et
6 seq.);

7 “(4) children living in rural areas;

8 “(5) migrant children; and

9 “(6) children with limited access to libraries.

10 **“SEC. 5626. RESTRICTION ON PAYMENTS.**

11 “The Secretary shall make no payment to an eligible
12 entity under this subpart unless the Secretary determines
13 that the eligible entity or a contractor of the eligible entity,
14 as the case may be, has made arrangements with book
15 publishers or distributors to obtain books at discounts that
16 are at least as favorable as discounts that are customarily
17 given by such publisher or distributor for book purchases
18 made under similar circumstances in the absence of Fed-
19 eral assistance.

20 **“SEC. 5627. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

21 “An eligible entity receiving a grant under section
22 5622 shall report annually to the Secretary on the effec-
23 tiveness of the program implemented by the eligible entity
24 and the programs instituted by each contractor of the eli-

1 gible entity, and shall include in the report a description
 2 of each program.”.

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

4 The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary
 5 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is amended by in-
 6 serting after the item relating to section 5618 the fol-
 7 lowing:

“SUBPART 22—PEDIATRIC EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

“Sec. 5621. Definitions.

“Sec. 5622. Program authorized.

“Sec. 5623. Applications.

“Sec. 5624. Matching requirement.

“Sec. 5625. Use of grant funds.

“Sec. 5626. Restriction on payments.

“Sec. 5627. Reporting requirement.”.

