105TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 4621

To provide for grants, a national clearinghouse, and a report to improve the quality and availability of after-school programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 24, 1998

Mr. Castle (for himself, Mr. Boehlert, Mr. English of Pennsylvania, Mr. Foley, Mr. Fox of Pennsylvania, Mr. Dooley of California, Mr. Gilman, Mr. Hinojosa, Mr. Lazio of New York, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Sawyer, and Mr. Shays) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide for grants, a national clearinghouse, and a report to improve the quality and availability of after-school programs.

- 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 "After-School Children's
- 5 Education (ACE) Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 The Congress finds the following:

- 1 (1) Children's activities outside of school have 2 a critical and long lasting impact on school achieve-3 ment and future success.
 - (2) Approximately 24,000,000 school-age children are in need of adult supervision while their parents are at work.
 - (3) Experts estimate that almost 5,000,000 school-age children spend time without adult supervision during a typical week and that these children are more likely to engage in risky behavior such as drug and alcohol abuse, sexual activity, loitering on street corners, and truancy.
 - (4) The prosperity of the Nation depends upon maximizing and fulfilling the potential of its young people.
 - (5) Many parents report that they would like to enroll their children in after-school enrichment activities but that they are prevented from doing so by prohibitive costs, transportation difficulties, worries about neighborhood safety, and a shortage of available options.
 - (6) While there are gaps in the availability of after-school programs, there are many outstanding programs for the Nation's youth, including programs sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America,

- the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America, YMCAs, mentoring programs, and athletic and other programs operated by public schools, churches, day care centers, parks, recreation centers, family day care, community organizations, law enforcement agencies, service providers, and nonprofit organizations.
- 8 (7) Before the United States can meaningfully 9 expand the supply of after-school programs, accurate 10 information must be available regarding the types of 11 after-school programs available, significant areas of 12 unmet need in the quality and availability of after-13 school programs, barriers which prevent or deter the 14 participation of children in after-school programs, 15 and barriers to improving the quality and availability 16 of after-school programs.

17 SEC. 3. AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANTS.

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act
- 19 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) is amended—
- 20 (1) in section 657A(b)(3), by inserting ", in-21 cluding after-school programs" after "child care";
- 22 (2) in section 657B, by striking 23 "\$1,000,000,000" and inserting "\$1,010,000,000";
- 24 and

1	(3) by inserting after section 658G the follow-
2	ing new section:
3	"SEC. 658H. AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANTS.
4	"A State that receives funds to carry out this Act
5	for a fiscal year shall use not less than 1 percent of the
6	amount of such funds, in coordination with child care re-
7	source and referral centers to the extent practicable for
8	activities that are designed to improve the quality and
9	availability of after-school programs, including one or
10	more of the following:
11	"(1) Informational assistance, including assist-
12	ance to kindergartens, elementary schools, and high
13	schools within the State, for placement of children in
14	kindergarten through high school in age-appropriate,
15	enriching after-school programs.
16	"(2) Coordination of after-school programs.
17	"(3) Development of innovative, age-appro-
18	priate, age-appealing, and enriching after-school pro-
19	grams.
20	"(4) Development of creative funding strategies
21	to help make after-school programs affordable for all
22	parents.".
23	SEC. 4. CLEARINGHOUSE FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.
24	The Secretary of Health and Human Services,
25	through the Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Fami-

- 1 lies and in consultation with State child care agencies and
- 2 child care resource and referral centers, shall establish a
- 3 clearinghouse to provide technical assistance regarding es-
- 4 tablishment and operation of after-school programs and
- 5 models of after-school programs. The clearinghouse shall
- 6 be available to the public, including via Internet, and shall
- 7 serve as a resource for communities and individuals seek-
- 8 ing to improve the quality and availability of after-school
- 9 programs.

10 SEC. 5. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REPORT.

- 11 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
- 12 of this Act, the General Accounting Office shall transmit
- 13 to Congress a report containing the following:
- 14 (1) For each State, a description of the types
- of after-school programs that are available for stu-
- dents in kindergarten through grade 12, including
- programs sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of
- 18 America, the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts
- of America, YMCAs, and athletic and other pro-
- 20 grams operated by public schools and other State
- and local agencies.
- 22 (2) For 15 communities selected to represent a
- variety of regional, population, and demographic
- profiles, a detailed analysis of all of the after-school
- programs that are available for students in kinder-

- 1 garten through grade 12, including programs spon-2 sored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the 3 Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America, 4 YMCAs, mentoring programs, athletic programs, 5 and programs operated by public schools, churches, 6 day care centers, parks, recreation centers, family 7 day care, community organizations, law enforcement 8 agencies, service providers, and nonprofit organiza-9 tions.
 - (3) For each State, a description of significant areas of unmet need in the quality and availability of after-school programs.
 - (4) For each State, a description of barriers which prevent or deter the participation of children in after-school programs.
 - (5) For each State, a description of barriers to improving the quality and availability of after-school programs.

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