106TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 2965

To amend title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for digital education partnerships.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 28, 1999

Mrs. Roukema (for herself, Mrs. Morella, and Mr. Gilman) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for digital education partnerships.

- 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 "Digital Education Act
- 5 of 1999".
- 6 SEC. 2. REVISION OF PART C OF TITLE III.
- 7 Part C of title III of the Elementary and Secondary
- 8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6921 et seq.) is amend-
- 9 ed to read as follows:

1 "PART C—READY-TO-LEARN DIGITAL TELEVISION

2 "SEC. 3301. FINDINGS.

- 3 "Congress makes the following findings:
- "(1) In 1994, Congress and the Department collaborated to make a long-term, meaningful and public investment in the principle that high-quality preschool television programming will help children be ready to learn by the time the children entered first grade.
 - "(2) The Ready to Learn Television Program through the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and local public television stations has proven to be an extremely cost-effective national response to improving early childhood development and helping parents, caregivers, and professional child care providers learn how to use television as a means to help children learn, develop, and play creatively.
 - "(3) Independent research shows that parents who participate in Ready to Learn workshops are more critical consumers of television and their children are more active viewers. A University of Alabama study showed that parents who had attended a Ready to Learn workshop read more books and stories to their children and read more minutes each time than nonattendees. The parents did more hands-on activities related to reading with their chil-

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dren. The parents engaged in more word activities and for more minutes each time. The parents read less for entertainment and more for education. The parents took their children to libraries and bookstores more than nonattendees. For parents, participating in a Ready to Learn workshop increases their awareness of and interest in educational dimensions of television programming and is instrumental in having their children gain exposure to more educational programming. Moreover, 6 months after participating in Ready to Learn workshops, parents who attended generally had set rules for television viewing by their children. These rules related to the amount of time the children were allowed to watch television daily, the hours the children were allowed to watch television, and the tasks or chores the children must have accomplished before the children were allowed to watch television.

"(4) The Ready to Learn (RTL) Television Program is supporting and creating commercial-free broadcast programs for young children that are of the highest possible educational quality. Program funding has also been used to create hundreds of valuable interstitial program elements that appear between national and local public television pro-

grams to provide developmentally appropriate messages to children and caregiving advice to parents.

"(5) Through the Nation's 350 local public television stations, these programs and programming elements reach tens of millions of children, their parents, and caregivers without regard to their economic circumstances, location, or access to cable. In this way, public television is a partner with Federal policy to make television an instrument, not an enemy, of preschool children's education and early development.

"(6) The Ready to Learn Television Program extends beyond the television screen. Funds from the Ready to Learn Television Program have funded thousands of local workshops organized and run by local public television stations, almost always in association with local child care training agencies or early childhood development professionals, to help child care professionals and parents learn more about how to use television effectively as a developmental tool. These workshops have trained more than 320,000 parents and professionals who, in turn, serve and support over 4,000,000 children across the Nation.

1	"(7)(A) The Ready to Learn Television Pro-
2	gram has published and distributed millions of cop-
3	ies of a quarterly magazine entitled 'PBS Families'
4	that contains—
5	"(i) developmentally appropriate games
6	and activities based on Ready to Learn Tele-
7	vision programming;
8	"(ii) parenting advice;
9	"(iii) news about regional and national ac-
10	tivities related to early childhood development;
11	and
12	"(iv) information about upcoming Ready to
13	Learn Television activities and programs.
14	"(B) The magazine described in subparagraph
15	(A) is published 4 times a year and distributed free
16	of charge by local public television stations in
17	English and in Spanish (PBS para la familia).
18	"(8) Because reading and literacy are central to
19	the ready to learn principle Ready to Learn Tele-
20	vision stations also have received and distributed
21	millions of free age-appropriate books in their com-
22	munities as part of the Ready to Learn Television
23	Program. Each station receives a minimum of 200
24	books each month for free local distribution. Some
25	stations are now distributing more than 1,000 books

per month. Nationwide, more than 300,000 books are distributed each year in low-income and disadvantaged neighborhoods free of charge.

> "(9) In 1998, the Public Broadcasting Service, in association with local colleges and local public television stations, as well as the Annenberg Corporation for Public Broadcasting Project housed at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, began a pilot program to test the formal awarding of a Certificate in Early Childhood Development through distance learning. The pilot is based on the local distribution of a 13-part video courseware series developed by Annenberg Corporation for Public Broadcasting and WTVS Detroit entitled 'The Whole Child'. Louisiana Public Broadcasting, Kentucky Educational Television, Maine Public Broadcasting, and WLJT Martin, Tennessee, working with local and State regulatory agencies in the childcare field, have participated in the pilot program with a high level of success. The certificate program is ready for nationwide application using the Public Broadcasting Service's Adult Learning Service.

> "(10) Demand for Ready To Learn Television Program outreach and training has increased dramatically, with the base of participating Public

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- 1 Broadcasting Service member stations growing from
- 2 a pilot of 10 stations to nearly 130 stations in 5
- 3 years.
- 4 "(11) Federal policy played a crucial role in the
- 5 evolution of analog television by funding the tele-
- 6 vision program entitled 'Sesame Street' in the
- 7 1960's. Federal policy should continue to play an
- 8 equally crucial role for children in the digital tele-
- 9 vision age.

10 "SEC. 3302. READY-TO-LEARN.

- 11 "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
- 12 award grants to or enter into contracts or cooperative
- 13 agreements with eligible entities described in section
- 14 3303(b) to develop, produce, and distribute educational
- 15 and instructional video programming for preschool and el-
- 16 ementary school children and their parents in order to fa-
- 17 cilitate the achievement of the National Education Goals.
- 18 "(b) AVAILABILITY.—In making such grants, con-
- 19 tracts, or cooperative agreements, the Secretary shall en-
- 20 sure that eligible entities make programming widely avail-
- 21 able, with support materials as appropriate, to young chil-
- 22 dren, their parents, childcare workers, and Head Start
- 23 providers to increase the effective use of such program-
- 24 ming.

1 "SEC. 3303. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING.

2	"(a) AWARDS.—The Secretary shall award grants,
3	contracts, or cooperative agreements under section 3302
4	to eligible entities to—
5	"(1) facilitate the development directly, or
6	through contracts with producers of children and
7	family educational television programming, of—
8	"(A) educational programming for pre-
9	school and elementary school children; and
10	"(B) accompanying support materials and
11	services that promote the effective use of such
12	programming;
13	"(2) facilitate the development of programming
14	and digital content especially designed for nation-
15	wide distribution over public television stations' dig-
16	ital broadcasting channels and the Internet, con-
17	taining Ready to Learn-based children's program-
18	ming and resources for parents and caregivers; and
19	"(3) enable eligible entities to contract with en-
20	tities (such as public telecommunications entities
21	and those funded under the Star Schools Act) so
22	that programs developed under this section are dis-
23	seminated and distributed—
24	(A) to the widest possible audience appro-
25	priate to be served by the programming; and

1	(B) by the most appropriate distribution
2	technologies.
3	"(b) Eligible Entities.—To be eligible to receive
4	a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under sub-
5	section (a), an entity shall be—
6	"(1) a public telecommunications entity that is
7	able to demonstrate a capacity for the development
8	and national distribution of educational and instruc-
9	tional television programming of high quality for
10	preschool and elementary school children; and
11	"(2) able to demonstrate a capacity to contract
12	with the producers of children's television program-
13	ming for the purpose of developing educational tele-
14	vision programming of high quality for preschool
15	and elementary school children.
16	"(c) Cultural Experiences.—Programming de-
17	veloped under this section shall reflect the recognition of
18	diverse cultural experiences and the needs and experiences
19	of both boys and girls in engaging and preparing young
20	children for schooling.
21	"SEC. 3304. DUTIES OF SECRETARY.
22	"The Secretary is authorized—
23	"(1) to award grants, contracts, or cooperative
24	agreements to eligible entities described in section
25	3303(b), local public television stations, or such pub-

1	lic television stations that are part of a consortium
2	with 1 or more State educational agencies, local edu-
3	cational agencies, local schools, institutions of higher
4	education, or community-based organizations of
5	demonstrated effectiveness, for the purpose of—
6	"(A) addressing the learning needs of
7	young children in limited English proficient
8	households, and developing appropriate edu-
9	cational and instructional television program-
10	ming to foster the school readiness of such chil-
11	dren;
12	"(B) developing programming and support
13	materials to increase family literacy skills
14	among parents to assist parents in teaching
15	their children and utilizing educational tele-
16	vision programming to promote school readi-
17	ness; and
18	"(C) identifying, supporting, and enhanc-
19	ing the effective use and outreach of innovative
20	programs that promote school readiness; and
21	"(D) developing and disseminating training
22	materials, including—
23	"(i) interactive programs and pro-
24	grams adaptable to distance learning tech-
25	nologies that are designed to enhance

1	knowledge of children's social and cognitive
2	skill development and positive adult-child
3	interactions; and
4	"(ii) support materials to promote the
5	effective use of materials developed under
6	subparagraph (B) among parents, Head
7	Start providers, in-home and center-based
8	daycare providers, early childhood develop-
9	ment personnel, elementary school teach-
10	ers, public libraries, and after- school pro-
11	gram personnel caring for preschool and
12	elementary school children;
13	"(2) to establish within the Department a clear-
14	inghouse to compile and provide information, refer-
15	rals, and model program materials and programming
16	obtained or developed under this part to parents,
17	child care providers, and other appropriate individ-
18	uals or entities to assist such individuals and entities
19	in accessing programs and projects under this part;
20	and
21	"(3) to coordinate activities assisted under this
22	part with the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
23	ices in order to—
24	"(A) maximize the utilization of quality
25	educational programming by preschool and ele-

mentary school children, and make such programing widely available to federally funded programs serving such populations; and

"(B) provide information to recipients of funds under Federal programs that have major training components for early childhood development, including programs under the Head Start Act and Even Start, and State training activities funded under the Child Care Development Block Grant Act of 1990, regarding the availability and utilization of materials developed under paragraph (1)(D) to enhance parent and child care provider skills in early childhood development and education.

15 "SEC. 3305. APPLICATIONS.

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"Each entity desiring a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under section 3302 or 3304 shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

21 "SEC. 3306. REPORTS AND EVALUATION.

"(a) Annual Report to Secretary.—An eligible entity receiving funds under section 3302 shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an annual report which contains such information as the Secretary may require. At

- 1 a minimum, the report shall describe the program activi-
- 2 ties undertaken with funds received under section 3302,
- 3 including—

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- 4 "(1) the programming that has been developed 5 directly or indirectly by the eligible entity, and the 6 target population of the programs developed;
- 7 "(2) the support materials that have been de-8 veloped to accompany the programming, and the 9 method by which such materials are distributed to 10 consumers and users of the programming;
 - "(3) the means by which programming developed under this section has been distributed, including the distance learning technologies that have been utilized to make programming available and the geographic distribution achieved through such technologies; and
 - "(4) the initiatives undertaken by the eligible entity to develop public-private partnerships to secure non-Federal support for the development, distribution and broadcast of educational and instructional programming.
- 22 "(b) Report to Congress.—The Secretary shall 23 prepare and submit to the relevant committees of Con-
- 24 gress a biannual report which includes—

- 1 "(1) a summary of activities assisted under sec-2 tion 3303(a); and
- 2 tion 9909(a), and
- 3 "(2) a description of the training materials

made available under section 3304(1)(D), the man-

- 5 ner in which outreach has been conducted to inform
- 6 parents and childcare providers of the availability of
- 7 such materials, and the manner in which such mate-
- 8 rials have been distributed in accordance with such
- 9 section.

10 "SEC. 3307. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

- "With respect to the implementation of section 3303,
- 12 eligible entities receiving a grant, contract, or cooperative
- 13 agreement from the Secretary may use not more than 5
- 14 percent of the amounts received under such section for
- 15 the normal and customary expenses of administering the
- 16 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

17 "SEC. 3308. DEFINITION.

- 18 "For the purposes of this part, the term 'distance
- 19 learning' means the transmission of educational or in-
- 20 structional programming to geographically dispersed indi-
- 21 viduals and groups via telecommunications.

22 "SEC. 3309. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- "(a) In General.—There are authorized to be ap-
- 24 propriated to carry out this part, \$50,000,000 for fiscal

- 1 year 2000, and such sums as may be necessary for each
- 2 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.
- 3 "(b) Funding Rule.—Not less than 60 percent of
- 4 the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for each
- 5 fiscal year shall be used to carry out section 3303.".
- 6 SEC. 3. REVISION OF PART D OF TITLE III.
- 7 Part D of title III of the Elementary and Secondary
- 8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6951 et seq.) is amend-
- 9 ed to read as follows:
- 10 "PART D—THE NEW CENTURY PROGRAM FOR
- 11 DISTRIBUTED TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DE-
- 12 **VELOPMENT**
- 13 "SEC. 3401. FINDINGS.
- "Congress makes the following findings:
- 15 "(1) Since 1995, the Telecommunications Dem-
- onstration Project for Mathematics (as established
- under this part pursuant to the Improving America's
- 18 Schools Act of 1994) (in this section referred to as
- 19 'MATHLINE') has allowed the Public Broadcasting
- Service to pioneer and refine a new model of teacher
- 21 professional development for kindergarten through
- grade 12 teachers. MATHLINE uses video modeling
- of standards-based lessons, combined with profes-
- sionally facilitated online learning communities of
- teachers, to help mathematics teachers from elemen-

tary school through secondary school adopt and im-plement standards-based practices in their class-rooms. This approach allows teachers to update their skills on their own schedules through video, while providing online interaction with peers and master teachers to reinforce that learning. This integrated, self-paced approach breaks down the isolation of classroom teaching while making standards-based best practices available to all participants.

- "(2) MATHLINE was developed specifically to disseminate the first national voluntary standards for teaching and learning as developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). During 3 years of actual deployment, more than 5,800 teachers have participated for at least a full year in the demonstration. These teachers, in turn, have taught more than 1,500,000 students cumulatively.
- "(3)(A) In the first 3 years of the MATHLINE project, the Public Broadcasting Service used the largest portion of the funds provided under this part—
- "(i) to produce video-based models ofclassroom teaching;

- "(ii) to produce and disseminate extensive
 accompanying print materials;
 - "(iii) to organize and host professionally moderated, year-long, online learning communities; and
 - "(iv) to train the Public Broadcasting Service stations to deploy MATHLINE in their local communities. In fiscal year 1998, the Public Broadcasting Service added an extensive Internet-based set of learning tools for teachers' use with the video modules and printed materials, and the Public Broadcasting Service expanded the online resources available to teachers through Internet-based discussion groups and a national listsery.

"(B) To extend Federal funds, the Public Broadcasting Service has experimented with various fee models for teacher participation, with varying results. Using fiscal year 1998 Federal funds and private money, participation in MATHLINE will increase by 10,000 MATHLINE scholarships to preservice and inservice teachers. The Public Broadcasting Service and its participating member stations will distribute scholarships in each congressional district in the United States, with teachers

- serving disadvantaged populations given priority for
 the scholarships.
- 3 "(4) Independent evaluations indicate that 4 teaching improves and students benefit as a result of 5 the MATHLINE program.
- 6 "(5) The MATHLINE program is ready to be 7 expanded to reach many more teachers in more sub-8 ject areas. The New Century Program for Distrib-9 uted Teacher Professional Development will link the 10 digitized public broadcasting infrastructure with 11 education networks by working with the program's 12 digital membership, and Federal and State agencies, to expand the successful MATHLINE model. Tens 13 14 of thousands of teachers will have access to the New 15 Century Program for Distributed Teacher Profes-16 sional Development, to advance their teaching skills 17 and their ability to integrate technology into teach-18 ing and learning. The New Century Program for 19 Distributed Teacher Professional Development also 20 will leverage the Public Broadcasting Service's his-21 toric relationships with higher education to improve 22 preservice teacher training.

23 "SEC. 3402. PROJECT AUTHORIZED.

24 "The Secretary is authorized to make grants to a 25 nonprofit telecommunications entity, or partnership of

- 1 such entities, for the purpose of carrying out a national
- 2 telecommunications-based program to improve teaching in
- 3 core curriculum areas. The program authorized by this
- 4 part shall be designed to assist elementary school and sec-
- 5 ondary school teachers in preparing all students for
- 6 achieving State content standards.

7 "SEC. 3403. APPLICATION REQUIRED.

- 8 "(a) IN GENERAL.—Each nonprofit telecommuni-
- 9 cations entity, or partnership of such entities, desiring a
- 10 grant under this part shall submit an application to the
- 11 Secretary. Each such application shall—
- "(1) demonstrate that the applicant will use the
- public broadcasting infrastructure and school digital
- 14 networks, where available, to deliver video and data
- in an integrated service to train teachers in the use
- of standards-based curricula materials and learning
- technologies;
- 18 "(2) assure that the project for which assist-
- ance is sought will be conducted in cooperation with
- appropriate State educational agencies, local edu-
- 21 cational agencies, national, State or local nonprofit
- public telecommunications entities, and national edu-
- cation professional associations that have developed
- 24 content standards in the subject areas;

- 1 "(3) assure that a significant portion of the
- 2 benefits available for elementary schools and sec-
- 3 ondary schools from the project for which assistance
- 4 is sought will be available to schools of local edu-
- 5 cational agencies which have a high percentage of
- 6 children counted for the purpose of part A of title
- 7 I; and
- 8 "(4) contain such additional assurances as the
- 9 Secretary may reasonably require.
- 10 "(b) Approval of Applications; Number of
- 11 Sites.—In approving applications under this section, the
- 12 Secretary shall assure that the program authorized by this
- 13 part is conducted at elementary school and secondary
- 14 school sites in at least 15 States.
- 15 "SEC. 3404. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
- 16 "There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
- 17 this part, \$20,000,000 for the fiscal year 2000, and such
- 18 sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding
- 19 fiscal years.".
- 20 SEC. 4. ADDITION OF PART F TO TITLE III.
- 21 Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education
- 22 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.) is amended by add-
- 23 ing at the end the following:

1	"PART F—DIGITAL EDUCATION CONTENT
2	COLLABORATIVE
3	"SEC. 3701. FINDINGS.
4	"Congress makes the following findings:
5	"(1) Over the past several years, both the Fed-
6	eral and State governments have made significant
7	investments in computer technology and tele-
8	communications in the Nation's schools. Tremen-
9	dous progress has been made in wiring classrooms,
10	equipping the classrooms with multimedia com-
11	puters, and connecting the classrooms to the Inter-
12	net.
13	"(2) There is a great need for aggregating high
14	quality, curriculum-based digital content for teachers
15	and students to easily access and use in order to
16	meet the State standards for student performance.
17	"(3) Under Federal Communications Commis-
18	sion policy, public television stations and State net-
19	works are mandated to convert from analog
20	broadcasting to digital broadcasting by 2003.
21	"(4) Most local public television stations and
22	State networks provide high quality video programs,
23	and teacher professional development, as a part of
24	their mission to serve local schools. Programs dis-

tributed by public broadcast stations are used by

more classroom teachers than any other because of

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their high quality and relevance to the curriculum.
However analog distribution has limited kinder-
garten through grade 12 services to a few hours per
day of linear video broadcasts on a single channel.
"(5) The new capacity of digital broadcasting,
can dramatically increase and improve the types of
services public broadcasting stations can offer kin-
dergarten through grade 12 schools.
"(6) Digital broadcasting can contribute to the
improvement of schools and student performance as
follows:
"(A) Broadcast of multiple video channels
and data information simultaneously.
"(B) Data can be transmitted along with
the video content enabling students to interact,
access additional information, communicate
with featured experts, and contribute their own
knowledge to the subject.
"(C) Both the video and data can be
stored on servers and made available on de-
mand to teachers and students.
"(7) Teachers depend on public television sta-
tions as a primary source of high quality video mate-
rial. The material has not always been as accessible

or adaptable to the curriculum as teachers would

- prefer. Moreover, direct student interaction with the
 material was difficult.
- "(8) Public television stations and State networks will soon have the capability of creating and distributing interactive digital content that can be directly matched to State standards and available to teachers and students on demand to fit their local curriculum.
- 9 "(9) Interactive digital education content will 10 be an important component of Federal support for 11 States in setting high standards and increasing stu-12 dent performance.
- 13 "SEC. 3702. DIGITAL EDUCATION CONTENT COLLABO-
- 14 RATIVE.
- 15 "(a) In General.—The Secretary is authorized to 16 award grants to or enter into contracts or cooperative 17 agreements with eligible entities described in section
- 18 3703(b) to develop, produce, and distribute educational
- 19 and instructional video programming that is designed for
- 20 use by kindergarten through grade 12 schools and based
- 21 on State standards.
- 22 "(b) Availability.—In making the grants, con-
- 23 tracts, or cooperative agreements, the Secretary shall en-
- 24 sure that eligible entities enter into multiyear content de-
- 25 velopment collaborative arrangements with State edu-

1	cational agencies, local educational agencies, institutions
2	of higher education, businesses, or other agencies and or-
3	ganizations.
4	"SEC. 3703. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING.
5	"(a) AWARDS.—The Secretary shall award grants,
6	contracts, or cooperative agreements under this part to eli-
7	gible entities to—
8	"(1) facilitate the development of educational
9	programming that shall—
10	"(A) include student assessment tools to
11	give feedback on student performance;
12	"(B) include built-in teacher utilization
13	and support components to ensure that teachers
14	understand and can easily use the content of
15	the programming with group instruction or for
16	individual student use;
17	"(C) be created for, or adaptable to, State
18	content standards; and
19	"(D) be capable of distribution through
20	digital broadcasting and school digital networks.
21	"(b) Eligible Entities.—To be eligible to receive
22	a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under sub-
23	section (a), an entity shall be a local public telecommuni-
24	cations entity as defined by section 397(12) of the Com-
25	munications Act of 1934 that is able to demonstrate a ca-

- 1 pacity for the development and distribution of educational
- 2 and instructional television programming of high quality.
- 3 "(c) Competitive Basis.—Grants under this part
- 4 shall be awarded on a competitive basis as determined by
- 5 the Secretary.
- 6 "(d) DURATION.—Each grant under this part shall
- 7 be awarded for a period of 3 years in order to allow time
- 8 for the creation of a substantial body of significant con-
- 9 tent.

10 "SEC. 3704. APPLICATIONS.

- 11 "Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this part
- 12 shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
- 13 in such manner, and accompanied by such information as
- 14 the Secretary may reasonably require.

15 "SEC. 3705. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

- 16 "An eligible entity receiving a grant under this part
- 17 shall contribute to the activities assisted under this part
- 18 non-Federal matching funds equal to not less than 100
- 19 percent of the amount of the grant. Matching funds may
- 20 include funds provided for the transition to digital broad-
- 21 casting, as well as in-kind contributions.

22 "SEC. 3706. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

- 23 "With respect to the implementation of this part, en-
- 24 tities receiving a grant under this part from the Secretary
- 25 may use not more than 5 percent of the amounts received

- 1 under the grant for the normal and customary expenses
- 2 of administering the grant.
- 3 "SEC. 3707. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
- 4 "There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
- 5 this part, \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, and such sums
- 6 as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal
- 7 years.".

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