

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1508

To amend title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
to provide for elementary and secondary school counseling programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for elementary and secondary school counseling 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 “Elementary and Sec-
5 ondary Counseling Improvement Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL COUN-**
7 **SELING PROGRAMS.**

8 Section 10102 of title X of the Elementary and Sec-
9 ondary Education Act of 1965 is amended to read as fol-
10 lows:

1 **“SEC. 10102. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL**
2 **COUNSELING PROGRAMS.**

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

4 “(1) The Surgeon General reported in January
5 2001 that 1 in 10 children suffer from mental ill-
6 nesses severe enough to impair development and
7 fewer than 1 in 5 children get treatment for mental
8 illnesses.

9 “(2) The Surgeon General reported that the
10 burden of suffering by children with mental health
11 needs and their families has created a health crisis
12 in this country. Growing numbers of children are
13 suffering needlessly because their emotional, behav-
14 ioral, and developmental needs are not being met by
15 the very institutions and systems that were created
16 to take care of them.

17 “(3) As a result of the concern about the fail-
18 ure of the healthcare system to reach children and
19 adolescents with mental illnesses, there is currently
20 great interest in developing new models for the deliv-
21 ery of mental health and counseling services that
22 can reach underserved groups efficiently.

23 “(4) Schools are a sensible point of intervention
24 because of their central position in many children’s
25 lives and development, especially when families are
26 unable to assume a leading role.

1 “(5) School-based mental health and counseling
2 services allow for the identification of children in
3 need of treatment much earlier in their development.

4 “(6) Establishing mental health and counseling
5 services in schools provides access to underserved
6 youth with or at risk of emotional or behavioral
7 problems.

8 “(7) The Surgeon General’s 2000 report on
9 youth violence concludes that effective treatment can
10 divert a significant proportion of delinquent and vio-
11 lent youths from future violence and crime.

12 “(8) Mental health and counseling services can
13 play an important role in violence prevention on all
14 levels, including preventing problem behaviors from
15 developing; identifying and serving specific, at-risk
16 populations; and reducing the deleterious effects of
17 violence on victims and witnesses.

18 “(9) An evaluation of the model program for
19 the elementary school counseling demonstration pro-
20 gram established pursuant to this section prior to
21 the date of enactment of the Elementary and Sec-
22 ondary Counseling Improvement Act of 2001 found
23 that the number of referrals to the principal’s office
24 decreased by nearly half, the use of force, weapons,

1 and threatening of others also decreased, school sus-
2 pensions were reduced, and students felt safer.

3 “(10) The report produced by the Institute of
4 Medicine, ‘Schools and Health: Our Nation’s Invest-
5 ment’, recommended a student-to-school counselor
6 ratio of 250:1, student-to-school psychologist ratio of
7 1000:1, and a student-to-school social worker ratio
8 of 800:1. The United States average student-to-
9 counselor ratio is 551:1. Ratios for school psycholo-
10 gists and school social workers also exceed the rec-
11 ommended levels.

12 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may use
14 funds provided under this section to award grants to
15 local educational agencies to enable such agencies to
16 establish or expand elementary and secondary school
17 counseling programs which meet the requirements of
18 subsection (c).

19 “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
20 section, the Secretary shall give special consideration
21 to applications describing programs which—

22 “(A) demonstrate the greatest need for
23 new or additional counseling services among
24 children in the schools served by the applicant,
25 in part, by providing information on current ra-

1 tios of students to school counselors, students
2 to school social workers, and students to school
3 psychologists;

4 “(B) propose the most promising and inno-
5 vative approaches for initiating or expanding
6 school counseling; and

7 “(C) show the greatest potential for rep-
8 lication and dissemination.

9 “(3) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding
10 grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure
11 an equitable geographic distribution among the re-
12 gions of the United States and among urban, subur-
13 ban, and rural local educational agencies.

14 “(4) DURATION.—A grant under this section
15 shall be awarded for a period not to exceed 3 years.

16 “(5) MAXIMUM GRANT.—A grant awarded
17 under this program shall not exceed \$400,000 for
18 any fiscal year.

19 “(6) SUPPLEMENT.—Assistance made available
20 under this section shall be used to supplement, and
21 may not supplant, other Federal, State, or local
22 funds used for providing school-based counseling and
23 mental health services to students.

24 “(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNSELING PRO-
25 GRAMS.—Each program funded under this section shall—

1 “(1) be comprehensive in addressing the coun-
2 seling and educational needs of all students;

3 “(2) use a developmental, preventive approach
4 to counseling;

5 “(3) increase the range, availability, quantity,
6 and quality of counseling services in the elementary
7 and secondary schools of the local educational agen-
8 cy;

9 “(4) expand counseling services through quali-
10 fied school counselors, school psychologists, school
11 social workers, and child and adolescent psychia-
12 trists;

13 “(5) use innovative approaches to increase chil-
14 dren’s understanding of peer and family relation-
15 ships, work and self, decisionmaking, or academic
16 and career planning, or to improve peer interaction;

17 “(6) provide counseling services in settings that
18 meet the range of needs of students;

19 “(7) include inservice training, including train-
20 ing for teachers in appropriate identification and
21 intervention techniques for disciplining and teaching
22 students at risk of violent behavior, by school coun-
23 selors, school psychologists, school social workers,
24 and child and adolescent psychiatrists;

1 “(8) involve parents of participating students in
2 the design, implementation, and evaluation of a
3 counseling program;

4 “(9) involve community groups, social service
5 agencies, or other public or private entities in col-
6 laborative efforts to enhance the program;

7 “(10) evaluate annually the effectiveness and
8 outcomes of the counseling services and activities as-
9 sisted under this section;

10 “(11) ensure a team approach to school coun-
11 seling in the elementary and secondary schools of
12 the local educational agency by working toward ra-
13 tios recommended by the American School Health
14 Association of one school counselor to 250 students,
15 one school social worker to 800 students, and one
16 school psychologist to 1,000 students; and

17 “(12) ensure that school counselors, school psy-
18 chologists, school social workers, or child and adoles-
19 cent psychiatrists paid from funds made available
20 under this section spend a majority of their time at
21 the school in activities directly related to the coun-
22 seling process.

23 “(d) LIMIT ON ADMINISTRATION.—Not more than 3
24 percent of the amounts made available under this section

1 in any fiscal year may be used for administrative costs
2 to carry out this section.

3 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

4 “(1) the term ‘school counselor’ means an indi-
5 vidual who has documented competence in coun-
6 seling children and adolescents in a school setting
7 and who—

8 “(A) possesses State licensure or certifi-
9 cation granted by an independent professional
10 regulatory authority;

11 “(B) in the absence of such State licensure
12 or certification, possesses national certification
13 in school counseling or a specialty of counseling
14 granted by an independent professional organi-
15 zation; or

16 “(C) holds a minimum of a master’s de-
17 gree in school counseling from a program ac-
18 credited by the Council for Accreditation of
19 Counseling and Related Educational Programs
20 or the equivalent;

21 “(2) the term ‘school psychologist’ means an in-
22 dividual who—

23 “(A) possesses a minimum of 60 graduate
24 semester hours in school psychology from an in-
25 stitution of higher education and has completed

1 1,200 clock hours in a supervised school psy-
2 chology internship, of which 600 hours shall be
3 in the school setting;

4 “(B) possesses State licensure or certifi-
5 cation in the State in which the individual
6 works; or

7 “(C) in the absence of such State licensure
8 or certification, possesses national certification
9 by the National School Psychology Certification
10 Board;

11 “(3) the term ‘school social worker’ means an
12 individual who—

13 “(A) holds a master’s degree in social work
14 from a program accredited by the Council on
15 Social Work Education; and

16 “(B) is licensed or certified by the State in
17 which services are provided; or

18 “(C) in the absence of such State licensure
19 or certification, possesses a national credential
20 or certification as a ‘school social work spe-
21 cialist’ granted by an independent professional
22 organization; and

23 “(4) the term ‘child and adolescent psychiatrist’
24 means an individual who—

25 “(A) possesses State medical licensure; and

1 “(B) has completed residency training pro-
2 grams in general and child and adolescent psy-
3 chiatry.

4 “(f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after assistance
5 is made available under this section, the Secretary shall
6 make publicly available the information from applicants
7 regarding the ratios of students to school counselors, stu-
8 dents to school social workers, and students to school psy-
9 chologists.

10 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and such sums as may
13 be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

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