

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2489

To provide effective training and education programs for displaced homemakers, single parents, and individuals entering nontraditional employment.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 2001

Ms. HART (for herself, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. HORN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. HARMAN, and Mr. SANDERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide effective training and education programs for displaced homemakers, single parents, and individuals entering nontraditional employment.

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 “Homemaker Employ-
5 ment Assistance and Lifeskills Act.”

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS.**

2 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
3 assistance to States for preparatory services, education
4 and training programs, support service assistance, and re-
5 ferral services to displaced homemakers, single parents,
6 and individuals pursuing nontraditional occupations. Such
7 assistance will create workforce pathways for individuals
8 in transition and help meet the employment needs of a
9 high skilled, information technology economy.

10 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

11 (1) A high quality, productive, and diverse
12 workforce is necessary to compete in the global econ-
13 omy.

14 (2) There are approximately 15,000,000 dis-
15 placed homemakers and single parents in the United
16 States for whom the pathway to employment and
17 economic independence requires education and train-
18 ing services.

19 (3) The education and training needs of dis-
20 placed homemakers, single parents, and individuals
21 pursuing nontraditional occupations are not suffi-
22 ciently met through existing systems.

23 (4) Displaced homemakers and single parents
24 represent an untapped resource to enter unfilled po-
25 sitions in the information technology sector.

1 (5) Employment in information technology and
2 nontraditional careers offers wages and advancement
3 opportunities to help families achieve economic inde-
4 pendence.

5 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

6 Except as otherwise specified in this Act, as used in
7 this Act:

8 (1) **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.**—The
9 term “community-based organization” means a pub-
10 lic or private nonprofit organization of demonstrated
11 effectiveness that—

12 (A) is representative of a community or
13 significant segments of a community; and

14 (B) provides educational or related services
15 to individuals in the community.

16 (2) **DISPLACED HOMEMAKER.**—The term “dis-
17 placed homemaker” means an individual who has
18 been providing unpaid services to family members in
19 the home and who—

20 (A) has been dependent on the income of
21 another family member but is no longer sup-
22 ported by that income; and

23 (B) is unemployed or underemployed and
24 is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or up-
25 grading employment.

1 (3) ELIGIBLE STATE AGENCY.—The term “eli-
2 gible State agency” means a State board designated
3 or created as the State agency responsible for the
4 administration of vocational and technical education
5 in the State.

6 (4) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
7 recipient” means a community-based organization, a
8 local educational agency, a postsecondary vocational
9 institution, or other entities that have demonstrated
10 ability to meet the education and training needs of
11 displaced homemakers and single parents.

12 (5) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
13 “local educational agency” has the meaning given
14 such term in section 14101 of the Elementary and
15 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801).

16 (6) NONTRADITIONAL EMPLOYMENT.—The
17 term “nontraditional employment,” refers to occupa-
18 tions or fields of work for which individuals from
19 one gender comprise less than 25 percent of the in-
20 dividuals employed in each such occupation or field
21 of work.

22 (7) PREPARATORY SERVICES.—The term “pre-
23 paratory services” means services, programs, or ac-
24 tivities designed to assist individuals who are not en-
25 rolled in education or training programs in the selec-

1 tion of, or preparation for participation in, an appro-
2 priate education or training program, such as—

3 (A) services, programs, or activities related
4 to outreach in the recruitment of potential stu-
5 dents;

6 (B) career counseling and personal coun-
7 seling;

8 (C) vocational assessment and testing; and

9 (D) other appropriate services, programs,
10 or activities.

11 (8) POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL INSTITU-
12 TION.—The term “postsecondary vocation institu-
13 tion” has the same meaning given such term in sec-
14 tion 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
15 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c)).

16 (9) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
17 ondary school” has the meaning given the term in
18 section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary
19 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801).

20 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
21 means the Secretary of Education.

22 (11) SINGLE PARENT.—The term “single par-
23 ent” means an individual who is unmarried and—

1 (A) has a minor child or children for which
2 the parent has either custody or joint custody;
3 or

4 (B) is pregnant.

5 (12) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The term “sup-
6 portive services” means services such as transpor-
7 tation, child care, dependent care, and needs based
8 payment, that are necessary to enable an individual
9 to participate in education and training activities.

10 **SEC. 4. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

11 The Secretary of Education is authorized to provide
12 grants to States to enable such States to develop or en-
13 hance programs described in section 6.

14 **SEC. 5. ALLOCATION.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall allot funds to
16 the States under this Act based on the ratio of the popu-
17 lation between the ages of 16 and 64 of each State to
18 the total population between the ages of 16 and 64 in all
19 of the States.

20 (b) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds provided
21 under this Act shall be used to supplement not supplant
22 other Federal, State, and local public funds expended to
23 provide services to displaced homemakers, single parents,
24 and students pursuing nontraditional occupations.

1 **SEC. 6. ELIGIBILITY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible State agency shall
3 prepare and submit to the Secretary a plan for a five-year
4 period, together with such annual revisions as the eligible
5 State agency determines to be necessary.

6 (b) REVISIONS; REVIEW; AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—
7 Each eligible State agency shall—

8 (1) submit such annual revisions of the plan to
9 the Secretary as the eligible State agency determines
10 to be necessary;

11 (2) after the second year of the 5-year State
12 plan, conduct a review of activities assisted under
13 this Act and submit any revisions of the State plan
14 that the eligible State agency determines necessary
15 to the Secretary; and

16 (3) submit an annual report of data compiled in
17 accordance with paragraph (7) of subsection (d).

18 (c) PLAN DEVELOPMENT.—The eligible State agency
19 may develop the State plan in consultation with experts,
20 students in displaced homemaker, single parent, and non-
21 traditional training programs, and any other individual
22 the State considers necessary.

23 (d) PLAN CONTENTS.—The State plan shall include
24 information that—

25 (1) describes the preparatory services and voca-
26 tional and technical education activities to be as-

1 sisted that are designed to assist single parents, dis-
2 placed homemakers, and students pursuing non-
3 traditional training and employment;

4 (2) describes the process for soliciting competi-
5 tive applications and the criteria that will be used by
6 the eligible State agency in awarding eligible recipi-
7 ents funds under this Act;

8 (3) describes how comprehensive professional
9 development will be provided;

10 (4) describes how the eligible State agency
11 will—

12 (A) annually evaluate the effectiveness of
13 such programs; and

14 (B) coordinate such programs to ensure
15 non-duplication with other existing Federal pro-
16 grams;

17 (5) provides assurances that the eligible State
18 agency will comply with the requirements of this Act
19 and the provisions of the State plan, including the
20 provision of a financial audit of funds received under
21 this Act which may be included as part of an audit
22 of other Federal or State programs;

23 (6) provides assurances that none of the funds
24 expended under this Act will be used to acquire
25 equipment (including computer software) in any in-

1 stance in which such acquisition results in a direct
2 financial benefit to any organization representing
3 the interests of the purchasing entity, the employees
4 of the purchasing entity, or any affiliate of such an
5 organization;

6 (7) describes how the eligible State agency will
7 measure and report the progress of the students who
8 are served pursuant to this Act, including—

9 (A) single parent and displaced home-
10 maker's participation in and completion of a vo-
11 cational and technical education program;

12 (B) student participation in and comple-
13 tion of vocational and technical education pro-
14 grams that lead to nontraditional training and
15 employment;

16 (C) single parent and displaced home-
17 maker's attainment of a secondary school di-
18 ploma or its recognized equivalent;

19 (D) single parent and displaced home-
20 maker's placement in postsecondary education
21 or advanced training, placement in military
22 service, or placement in employment;

23 (E) student placement in nontraditional
24 employment; and

1 (8) describes how the eligible State agency will
2 provide eligible recipients with technical assistance;

3 (9) describes the methods proposed for the joint
4 planning and coordination of programs carried out
5 under this Act with other Federal programs.

6 (e) PLAN OPTION.—The eligible State agency may
7 fulfill the requirements of subsection (d) by submitting a
8 plan under section 123 of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational
9 and Technical Education Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 2343).

10 (f) PLAN APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall consider
11 a plan or revision of a State plan approved, unless the
12 Secretary determines, within 120 days of submission, that
13 the State plan, or revision, respectively, does not meet the
14 requirements of this section.

15 **SEC. 7. PROGRAMS FOR SINGLE PARENTS, DISPLACED**
16 **HOMEMAKERS, AND NONTRADITIONAL EM-**
17 **PLOYMENT.**

18 Except as provided in section 8(a), each State may
19 use funds provided under section 9 only to—

20 (1) provide, subsidize, reimburse, or pay for
21 preparatory services, necessary educational materials
22 (including books and supplies), career guidance and
23 counseling services, support services, or special serv-
24 ices;

1 (2) provide information to displaced home-
2 makers, single parents, and students interested in
3 pursuing nontraditional occupations, to inform such
4 individuals of vocational education and training pro-
5 grams, related support services, and counseling;

6 (3) provide programs, services, counseling, and
7 activities to prepare displaced homemakers and sin-
8 gle parents to attain marketable skills for employ-
9 ment that will lead to economic self-sufficiency;

10 (4) provide programs, services, counseling, and
11 activities that will provide displaced homemakers
12 and single parents with the skills to enter informa-
13 tion technology and nontraditional careers;

14 (5) provide programs, services, counseling, and
15 activities to increase opportunities for students to
16 enter and pursue education and training in nontradi-
17 tional careers, including information technology and
18 other high skill careers;

19 (6) provide programs, services, counseling, and
20 activities to ensure a fair and respectful learning en-
21 vironment for all vocational students, particularly
22 those preparing for nontraditional employment; and

23 (7) develop replicable model programs that in-
24 crease participation and completion rates of individ-
25 uals in nontraditional employment.

1 **SEC. 8. WITHIN STATE ALLOCATION AND ADMINISTRATION.**

2 (a) RESERVATION FOR STATE ACTIVITIES.—From
3 the amounts allocated under section 5, not more than 5
4 percent shall be reserved for State administration.

5 (b) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Each eligible State
6 agency receiving funds made available under section 5(a),
7 shall match, from non-Federal sources and on a dollar-
8 for-dollar basis, the funds received under section 9.

9 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—Any State desiring to partici-
10 pate in a program authorized by this Act shall assign not
11 less than one individual within the appropriate agency es-
12 tablished to administer vocational education programs
13 within the State to assist in fulfilling the purposes of this
14 Act by—

15 (1) administering the program of vocational
16 education described in section 7;

17 (2) gathering, analyzing, and disseminating
18 data on the adequacy and effectiveness of vocational
19 education programs in the State as described in sec-
20 tion 6;

21 (3) developing the State plan described in sec-
22 tion 6;

23 (4) providing technical assistance and profes-
24 sional development in expanding vocational opportu-
25 nities for students pursuing nontraditional occupa-
26 tions and single parents, and displaced homemakers;

1 (5) managing the distribution of funds pursu-
2 ant to section 6;

3 (6) monitoring the use of funds distributed to
4 recipients under such programs; and

5 (7) evaluating the effectiveness of programs and
6 activities supported by such funds.

7 (d) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—The administrator as-
8 signed under subsection (c) shall—

9 (1) on a competitive basis, provide grants to eli-
10 gible recipients; and

11 (2) ensure that each grant is for a program
12 that is of sufficient size, scope, and quality to be ef-
13 fective.

14 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
16 this Act, \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and such sums
17 as may be necessary for each of the four succeeding fiscal
18 years.

○