

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 403

To improve the National Writing Project.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2001

Mr. COCHRAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education Labor and Pensions

A BILL

To improve the National Writing Project.

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. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL WRITING**
4 **PROJECT.**

5 (a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—Section 10991 of the
6 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
7 U.S.C. 8331) is amended to read as follows:

8 **“SEC. 10991. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

9 “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

10 “(1) the United States faces a continuing crisis
11 in writing in schools and in the workplace;

1 “(2) the writing problem has been magnified by
2 the rapidly changing student population, the growing
3 number of at-risk students due to limited English
4 proficiency, the shortage of adequately trained
5 teachers, and the specialized knowledge required of
6 teachers to teach students with special needs who
7 are now part of mainstream classrooms;

8 “(3) nationwide reports from universities and
9 colleges show that entering students are unable to
10 meet the demands of college level writing, almost all
11 2-year institutions of higher education offer remedial
12 writing courses, and three-quarters of public 4-year
13 institutions of higher education and half of all pri-
14 vate 4-year institutions of higher education must
15 provide remedial courses in writing;

16 “(4) American businesses and corporations are
17 concerned about the limited writing skills of both
18 entry-level workers and executives whose promotions
19 are denied due to inadequate writing abilities;

20 “(5) writing is fundamental to learning, includ-
21 ing learning to read, yet writing has been neglected
22 historically in schools and in teacher training institu-
23 tions;

24 “(6) writing is a central feature in State and
25 school district education standards in all disciplines;

1 “(7) since 1973, the only national program to
2 address the writing problem in the Nation’s schools
3 has been the National Writing Project, a network of
4 collaborative university-school programs, the goals of
5 which are to improve student achievement in writing
6 and student learning through improving the teaching
7 and uses of writing at all grade levels and in all dis-
8 ciplines;

9 “(8) the National Writing Project is a nation-
10 ally recognized and honored nonprofit organization
11 that improves the quality of teaching and teachers
12 through developing teacher-leaders who teach other
13 teachers in summer and school year programs;

14 “(9) evaluations of the National Writing
15 Project document the positive impact the project has
16 had on improving the teaching of writing, student
17 performance in writing, and student learning;

18 “(10) the National Writing Project has become
19 a model for programs to improve teaching in such
20 other fields as mathematics, science, history, reading
21 and literature, performing arts, and foreign lan-
22 guages;

23 “(11) each year, over 150,000 participants ben-
24 efit from National Writing Project programs in 1 of

1 156 United States sites located in 46 States and the
2 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

3 “(12) the National Writing Project is a cost-ef-
4 fective program and leverages over 6 dollars for
5 every 1 Federal dollar.

6 “(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this part—

7 “(1) to support and promote the expansion of
8 the National Writing Project network of sites so
9 that teachers in every region of the United States
10 will have access to a National Writing Project pro-
11 gram;

12 “(2) to ensure the consistent high quality of the
13 sites through ongoing review, evaluation and tech-
14 nical assistance;

15 “(3) to support and promote the establishment
16 of programs to disseminate effective practices and
17 research findings about the teaching of writing; and

18 “(4) to coordinate activities assisted under this
19 part with activities assisted under this Act.”.

20 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—Subsection (a) of section
21 10992 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 8332(a)) is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary is authorized
24 to award a grant to the National Writing Project, a non-
25 profit educational organization that has as its primary

1 purpose the improvement of the quality of student writing
2 and learning (hereafter in this section referred to as the
3 ‘grantee’) to improve the teaching of writing and the use
4 of writing as a part of the learning process in our Nation’s
5 classrooms.”.

6 (c) FEDERAL SHARE.—Paragraph (3) of section
7 10992(d) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 8332(d)) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 “(3) MAXIMUM.—The Federal share of the
10 costs of teacher training programs conducted pursu-
11 ant to subsection (a) may not exceed \$100,000 for
12 any one contractor, or \$200,000 for a statewide pro-
13 gram administered by any one contractor in at least
14 five sites throughout the State.

15 (d) REPEAL OF CLASSROOM TEACHER GRANTS.—
16 Section 10992 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 8332) is amended—

17 (1) by repealing subsection (e);

18 (2) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), (h),
19 and (i) as subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h), respec-
20 tively; and

21 (3) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “subsection
22 (f)” and inserting “subsection (e)”; and

23 (4) in subsection (f)(2) (as redesignated by
24 paragraph (2)), by striking “subsection (i)” and in-
25 serting “subsection (h)”.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-
2 section (h) of section 10992 of such Act (as redesignated
3 by subsection (d)(2)) (20 U.S.C. 8332) is amended by
4 striking “\$4,000,000 for fiscal year 1995” and inserting
5 “\$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2002”.

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