

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2795

To amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide vouchers for the purchase of educational books for infants and children participating in the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children under that Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 18, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY (for herself and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide vouchers for the purchase of educational books for infants and children participating in the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children under that Act.

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 “Access to Books for
5 Children Act” or the “ABC Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Reading to a child plays a crucial role in
2 the development of the child’s brain from the earliest
3 years.

4 (2) According to a 1995 study by the National
5 Commission on Reading, reading aloud to a child is
6 the single most important tool for developing literacy
7 skills.

8 (3) A child who is not introduced to books and
9 early literacy practices is more than three times as
10 likely to drop out of school as a child who is intro-
11 duced to books and early literacy practices.

12 (4) The American Academy of Pediatrics rec-
13 ommends daily reading to a child beginning when
14 the child is just 6 months old and recommends that
15 pediatricians prescribe reading activities and other
16 instruction to parents during well-child visits.

17 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF**
18 **1966.**

19 Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
20 U.S.C. 1786) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(s) VOUCHERS FOR PURCHASE OF EDUCATIONAL
23 BOOKS FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pro-
25 gram under this section, the Secretary shall provide

1 grants to local agencies for the purpose of providing
2 vouchers to women participating in the program for
3 the purchase of educational books for the infants
4 and children of such women.

5 “(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In pro-
6 viding vouchers pursuant to paragraph (1), a local
7 agency shall comply with the following requirements:

8 “(A) A woman may receive not more than
9 1 voucher (irrespective of the number of infants
10 or children of the woman).

11 “(B) The amount of a voucher may not ex-
12 ceed \$5.

13 “(3) FUNDING.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made
15 available to the Department of Education for
16 fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006, \$10,000,000
17 shall be made available to carry out this sub-
18 section (except as provided in subparagraph
19 (B)) for each such fiscal year.

20 “(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—In addi-
21 tion to amounts made available under subpara-
22 graph (A), there are authorized to be appro-
23 priated to the Secretary \$1,000,000 for each
24 of the fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006 for

1 the administrative costs in carrying out this
2 subsection.

3 “(C) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made avail-
4 able under subparagraphs (A) and (B) are au-
5 thorized to remain available until expended.”.

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