

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 504

To establish academies for teachers and students of American history and civics and a national alliance of teachers of American history and civics, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2003

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DODD, and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish academies for teachers and students of American history and civics and a national alliance of teachers of American history and civics, and for other purposes.

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 “American History and
5 Civics Education Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.—The term
2 “American history and civics” means the key events,
3 key persons, key ideas, and key documents that
4 shaped the institutions and democratic heritage of
5 the United States.

6 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The term “Chairperson”
7 means the Chairperson of the National Endowment
8 for the Humanities.

9 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
10 term “institution of higher education” has the
11 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
12 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

13 (4) KEY DOCUMENTS.—The term “key docu-
14 ments” means the documents that established or ex-
15 plained the foundational principles of democracy in
16 the United States, including the United States Con-
17 stitution and the amendments to the Constitution
18 (particularly the Bill of Rights), the Declaration of
19 Independence, the Federalist Papers, and the Eman-
20 cipation Proclamation.

21 (5) KEY EVENTS.—The term “key events”
22 means the critical turning points in the history of
23 the United States (including the American Revolu-
24 tion, the Civil War, the world wars of the twentieth
25 century, the civil rights movement, and the major

1 court decisions and legislation) that contributed to
2 extending the promise of democracy in American
3 life.

4 (6) KEY IDEAS.—The term “key ideas” means
5 the ideas that shaped the democratic institutions
6 and heritage of the United States, including the no-
7 tion of equal justice under the law, freedom, individ-
8 ualism, human rights, and a belief in progress.

9 (7) KEY PERSONS.—The term “key persons”
10 means the men and women who led the United
11 States as founding fathers, elected officials, sci-
12 entists, inventors, pioneers, advocates of equal
13 rights, entrepreneurs, and artists.

14 (8) NONPROFIT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—
15 The term “nonprofit educational institution”—

16 (A) means—

17 (i) an institution of higher education;

18 or

19 (ii) a nonprofit educational research
20 center; and

21 (B) includes a consortium of entities de-
22 scribed in subparagraph (A).

23 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
24 the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

1 **SEC. 3. PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIES FOR TEACHING OF**
2 **AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—From amounts appropriated
4 under subsection (j), the Chairperson shall award grants,
5 on a competitive basis, to nonprofit educational institu-
6 tions to establish Presidential Academies for Teaching of
7 American History and Civics (in this section referred to
8 as “Academies”) that shall offer workshops for teachers
9 of American history and civics—

10 (1) to learn how better to teach the subjects of
11 American history and civics; and

12 (2) to strengthen such teachers’ knowledge of
13 such subjects.

14 (b) APPLICATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—A nonprofit educational in-
16 stitution that desires to receive a grant under this
17 section shall submit an application to the Chair-
18 person at such time, in such manner, and containing
19 such information as the Chairperson may require.

20 (2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted
21 under paragraph (1) shall—

22 (A) include the criteria the nonprofit edu-
23 cational institution intends to use to determine
24 which teachers will be selected to attend work-
25 shops offered by the Academy;

1 (B) identify the individual the nonprofit
2 educational institution intends to appoint to be
3 the primary professor at the Academy; and

4 (C) include a description of the curriculum
5 to be used at workshops offered by the Acad-
6 emy.

7 (c) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—Except as provided in
8 subsection (e)(2)(B), the Chairperson shall award not
9 more than 12 grants to different nonprofit educational in-
10 stitutions under this section.

11 (d) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this
12 section, the Chairperson shall ensure that such grants are
13 equitably distributed among the geographical regions of
14 the United States.

15 (e) GRANT TERMS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this
17 section shall be for a term of 2 years.

18 (2) GRANTS AFTER FIRST TWO YEARS.—Upon
19 completion of the first 2-year grant term, the Chair-
20 person shall—

21 (A) renew a grant awarded under this sec-
22 tion to a nonprofit educational institution for
23 one more term of 2 years; or

24 (B) award a new grant to a nonprofit edu-
25 cational institution having an application ap-

1 proved under this section for a term of 2 years,
2 notwithstanding the 12 grant award maximum
3 under subsection (c).

4 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—

5 (1) WORKSHOPS.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—A nonprofit educational
7 institution that receives a grant under this sec-
8 tion shall establish an Academy that shall offer
9 a workshop during the summer, or during an-
10 other appropriate time, for kindergarten
11 through grade 12 teachers of American history
12 and civics—

13 (i) to learn how better to teach the
14 subjects of American history and civics;
15 and

16 (ii) to strengthen such teachers'
17 knowledge of such subjects.

18 (B) DURATION OF WORKSHOP.—A work-
19 shop offered pursuant to this section shall be
20 approximately 2 weeks in duration.

21 (2) ACADEMY STAFF.—

22 (A) PRIMARY PROFESSOR.—Each Academy
23 shall be headed by a primary professor identi-
24 fied in the application submitted under sub-
25 section (b) who shall—

1 (i) be accomplished in the field of
2 American history and civics; and

3 (ii) design the curriculum for and lead
4 the workshop.

5 (B) CORE TEACHERS.—Each primary pro-
6 fessor shall appoint an appropriate number of
7 core teachers. At the direction of the primary
8 professor, the core teachers shall teach and
9 train the workshop attendees.

10 (3) SELECTION OF TEACHERS.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—

12 (i) NUMBER OF TEACHERS.—Each
13 year, each Academy shall select approxi-
14 mately 300 kindergarten through grade 12
15 teachers of American history and civics to
16 attend the workshop offered by the Acad-
17 emy.

18 (ii) FLEXIBILITY IN NUMBER OF
19 TEACHERS.—An Academy may select more
20 than or fewer than 300 teachers depending
21 on the population in the region where the
22 Academy is located.

23 (B) TEACHERS FROM SAME REGION.—In
24 selecting teachers to attend a workshop, an
25 Academy shall select primarily teachers who

1 teach in schools located in the region where the
2 Academy is located.

3 (C) TEACHERS FROM PUBLIC AND PRI-
4 VATE SCHOOLS.—An Academy may select
5 teachers from public schools and private schools
6 to attend the workshop offered by the Academy.

7 (g) COSTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
9 graph (2), a teacher who attends a workshop offered
10 pursuant to this section shall not incur costs associ-
11 ated with attending the workshop, including costs
12 for meals, lodging, and materials while attending the
13 workshop.

14 (2) TRAVEL COSTS.—A teacher who attends a
15 workshop offered pursuant to this section shall use
16 non-Federal funds to pay for such teacher's costs of
17 transit to and from the Academy.

18 (h) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days after com-
19 pletion of all of the workshops assisted in the third year
20 grants are awarded under this section, the Chairperson
21 shall conduct an evaluation to—

22 (1) determine the overall success of the grant
23 program authorized under this section; and

24 (2) highlight the best grantees' practices in
25 order to become models for future grantees.

1 (i) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—A nonprofit educational
2 institution receiving Federal assistance under this section
3 may contribute non-Federal funds toward the costs of op-
4 erating the Academy.

5 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
7 \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.

8 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES FOR STUDENTS OF**
9 **AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—From amounts appropriated
11 under subsection (j), the Chairperson shall award grants,
12 on a competitive basis, to nonprofit educational institu-
13 tions to establish Congressional Academies for Students
14 of American History and Civics (in this section referred
15 to as “Academies”) that shall offer workshops for out-
16 standing students of American history and civics to broad-
17 en and deepen such students’ understanding of American
18 history and civics.

19 (b) APPLICATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—A nonprofit educational in-
21 stitution that desires to receive a grant under this
22 section shall submit an application to the Chair-
23 person at such time, in such manner, and containing
24 such information as the Chairperson may require.

1 (2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted
2 under paragraph (1) shall—

3 (A) include the criteria the nonprofit edu-
4 cational institution intends to use to determine
5 which students will be selected to attend work-
6 shops offered by the Academy;

7 (B) identify the individual the nonprofit
8 educational institution intends to appoint to be
9 the primary professor at the Academy; and

10 (C) include a description of the curriculum
11 to be used at workshops offered by the Acad-
12 emy.

13 (c) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—Except as provided in
14 subsection (e)(2)(B), the Chairperson shall award not
15 more than 12 grants to different nonprofit educational in-
16 stitutions under this section.

17 (d) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this
18 section, the Chairperson shall ensure that such grants are
19 equitably distributed among the geographical regions of
20 the United States.

21 (e) GRANT TERMS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this
23 section shall be for a term of 2 years.

1 (2) GRANTS AFTER FIRST TWO YEARS.—Upon
2 completion of the first 2-year grant term, the Chair-
3 person shall—

4 (A) renew a grant awarded under this sec-
5 tion to a nonprofit educational institution for
6 one more term of 2 years; or

7 (B) award a new grant to a nonprofit edu-
8 cational institution having an application ap-
9 proved under this section for a term of 2 years,
10 notwithstanding the 12 grant award maximum
11 under subsection (c).

12 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—

13 (1) WORKSHOPS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—A nonprofit educational
15 institution that receives a grant under this sec-
16 tion shall establish an Academy that shall offer
17 a workshop during the summer, or during an-
18 other appropriate time, for outstanding stu-
19 dents of American history and civics to broaden
20 and deepen such students' understanding of
21 American history and civics.

22 (B) DURATION OF WORKSHOP.—A work-
23 shop offered pursuant to this section shall be
24 approximately 4 weeks in duration.

25 (2) ACADEMY STAFF.—

1 (A) PRIMARY PROFESSOR.—Each Academy
2 shall be headed by a primary professor identi-
3 fied in the application submitted under sub-
4 section (b) who shall—

5 (i) be accomplished in the field of
6 American history and civics; and

7 (ii) design the curriculum for and lead
8 the workshop.

9 (B) CORE TEACHERS.—Each primary pro-
10 fessor shall appoint an appropriate number of
11 core teachers. At the direction of the primary
12 professor, the core teachers shall teach the
13 workshop attendees.

14 (3) SELECTION OF STUDENTS.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—

16 (i) NUMBER OF STUDENTS.—Each
17 year, each Academy shall select approxi-
18 mately 300 eligible students to attend the
19 workshop offered by the Academy.

20 (ii) FLEXIBILITY IN NUMBER OF STU-
21 DENTS.—An Academy may select more
22 than or fewer than 300 eligible students
23 depending on the population in the region
24 where the Academy is located.

1 (B) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—A student shall
2 be eligible to attend a workshop offered by an
3 Academy if the student—

4 (i) is recommended by the student’s
5 secondary school principal (or other head
6 of such student’s secondary school) to at-
7 tend the workshop; and

8 (ii) will be a junior or senior in a pub-
9 lic or private secondary school in the aca-
10 demic year following attendance at the
11 workshop.

12 (C) STUDENTS FROM SAME REGION.—In
13 selecting students to attend a workshop, an
14 Academy shall select primarily students who at-
15 tend secondary schools located in the region
16 where the Academy is located.

17 (g) COSTS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
19 graph (2), a student who attends a workshop offered
20 pursuant to this section shall not incur costs associ-
21 ated with attending the workshop, including costs
22 for meals, lodging, and materials while attending the
23 workshop.

24 (2) TRAVEL COSTS.—A student who attends a
25 workshop offered pursuant to this section shall use

1 non-Federal funds to pay for such student's costs of
2 transit to and from the Academy.

3 (h) EVALUATION.—Not later than 90 days after com-
4 pletion of all of the workshops assisted in the third year
5 grants are awarded under this section, the Chairperson
6 shall conduct an evaluation to—

7 (1) determine the overall success of the grant
8 program authorized under this section; and

9 (2) highlight the best grantees' practices in
10 order to become models for future grantees.

11 (i) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—A nonprofit educational
12 institution receiving Federal assistance under this section
13 may contribute non-Federal funds toward the costs of op-
14 erating the Academy.

15 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
17 \$14,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.

18 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF TEACHERS OF AMERICAN**

19 **HISTORY AND CIVICS.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
22 under subsection (e), the Chairperson shall award a
23 grant to an organization for the creation of a na-
24 tional alliance of elementary school and secondary
25 school teachers of American history and civics.

1 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the national al-
2 liance is—

3 (A) to facilitate the sharing of ideas among
4 teachers of American history and civics; and

5 (B) to encourage best practices in the
6 teaching of American history and civics.

7 (b) APPLICATION.—An organization that desires to
8 receive a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
9 tion to the Chairperson at such time, in such manner, and
10 containing such information as the Chairperson may re-
11 quire.

12 (c) GRANT TERM.—A grant awarded under this sec-
13 tion shall be for a term of 2 years and may be renewed
14 after the initial term expires.

15 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An organization that receives
16 a grant under this section may use the grant funds for
17 any of the following:

18 (1) Creation of a website on the Internet to fa-
19 cilitate discussion of new ideas on improving Amer-
20 ican history and civics education.

21 (2) Creation of in-State chapters of the national
22 alliance, to which individual teachers of American
23 history and civics may belong, that sponsors Amer-
24 ican history and civics activities for such teachers in
25 the State.

1 (3) Seminars, lectures, or other events focused
2 on American history and civics, which may be spon-
3 sored in cooperation with, or through grants award-
4 ed to, libraries, States' humanities councils, or other
5 appropriate entities.

6 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
8 \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.

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