

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 504

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2003

Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

AN ACT

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

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

8 (2) CHAIRMAN.—The term “Chairman” means
9 the Chairman of the National Endowment for the
10 Humanities.

11 (3) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
12 “educational institution”—

13 (A) means—

14 (i) an institution of higher education;

15 (ii) an educational institution created
16 by a legislative act of a State for the ex-
17 press purpose of teaching American history
18 and civics to elementary school and sec-
19 ondary school students; or

20 (iii) a nonprofit educational institu-
21 tion, library, or research center; and

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

24 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
25 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
2 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

3 (5) KEY DOCUMENTS.—The term “key docu-
4 ments” means the documents that established or ex-
5 plained the foundational principles of democracy in
6 the United States, including the United States Con-
7 stitution and the amendments to the Constitution
8 (particularly the Bill of Rights), the Declaration of
9 Independence, the Federalist Papers, and the Eman-
10 cipation Proclamation.

11 (6) KEY EVENTS.—The term “key events”
12 means the critical turning points in the history of
13 the United States (including the encounter of Native
14 Americans with European settlers, the American
15 Revolution, the Civil War, the world wars of the
16 twentieth century, the civil rights movement, and the
17 major court decisions, legislation, literature, and the
18 arts) that established democracy and extended its
19 promise in American life.

20 (7) KEY IDEAS.—The term “key ideas” means
21 the ideas that shaped the democratic institutions
22 and heritage of the United States, including the no-
23 tions of liberty, equal opportunity, individualism,
24 laissez faire, the rule of law, federalism and e

1 pluribus unum, the free exercise of religion, the sep-
 2 aration of church and state, and a belief in progress.

3 (8) KEY PERSONS.—The term “key persons”
 4 means the men and women who led the United
 5 States as Founding Fathers, Native American lead-
 6 ers, elected officials, scientists, inventors, pioneers,
 7 advocates of equal rights, entrepreneurs, and artists.

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

10 (10) TEACHERS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND
 11 CIVICS.—The term “teachers of American history
 12 and civics” means kindergarten through grade 12
 13 teachers who teach American history, government,
 14 or civics, or who incorporate such subjects into their
 15 teaching.

16 **SEC. 3. PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIES FOR TEACHING OF**
 17 **AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—From amounts appropriated
 19 under subsection (j), the National Endowment for the Hu-
 20 manities shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to
 21 educational institutions to establish Presidential Acad-
 22 emies for Teaching of American History and Civics (in
 23 this section referred to as “Academies”) that shall offer
 24 workshops for teachers of American history and civics—

1 (1) to strengthen such teachers' knowledge of
2 the subjects of American history and civics; and

3 (2) to learn how better to teach such subjects.

4 (b) APPLICATION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—An educational institution
6 that desires to receive a grant under this section
7 shall submit an application to the National Endow-
8 ment for the Humanities at such time, in such man-
9 ner, and containing such information as the Na-
10 tional Endowment for the Humanities may require.

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

13 (A) include the criteria that will be used to
14 determine which teachers will be selected to at-
15 tend workshops offered by the Academy;

16 (B) identify the individual the educational
17 institution intends to appoint to be the primary
18 scholar at the Academy;

19 (C) include a description of the curriculum
20 to be used at workshops offered by the Acad-
21 emy; and

22 (D) provide an assurance that the recruit-
23 ment plan for which teachers will be selected to
24 attend workshops offered by the Academy will
25 include teachers from schools receiving assist-

1 ance under part A of title I of the Elementary
 2 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
 3 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.), particularly those schools
 4 with high concentrations of students described
 5 in section 1124(c) of such Act.

6 (c) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—The National Endowment
 7 for the Humanities shall award not more than 12 grants
 8 to different educational institutions under this section.

9 (d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Chairman shall encourage
 10 equitable distribution of grants under this section among
 11 the geographical regions of the United States.

12 (e) GRANT TERMS.—Grants awarded under this sec-
 13 tion shall be for a term of 2 years.

14 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—

15 (1) WORKSHOPS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—An educational institu-
 17 tion that receives a grant under this section
 18 shall establish an Academy that shall offer a
 19 workshop during the summer, or during an-
 20 other appropriate time, for teachers of Amer-
 21 ican history and civics—

22 (i) to strengthen such teachers' knowl-
 23 edge of the subjects of American history
 24 and civics; and

1 (ii) to learn how better to teach such
2 subjects.

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

6 (2) ACADEMY STAFF.—

7 (A) PRIMARY SCHOLAR.—Each Academy
8 shall be headed by a primary scholar identified
9 in the application submitted under subsection
10 (b) who shall—

11 (i) be accomplished in the field of
12 American history and civics; and

13 (ii) design the curriculum for and lead
14 the workshop.

15 (B) CORE TEACHERS.—Each primary
16 scholar shall appoint an appropriate number of
17 core teachers. At the direction of the primary
18 scholar, the core teachers shall teach and train
19 the workshop attendees.

20 (3) SELECTION OF TEACHERS.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—

22 (i) NUMBER OF TEACHERS.—Each
23 year, each Academy shall select kinder-
24 garten through grade 12 teachers of Amer-

ican history and civics to attend the workshop offered by the Academy.

(ii) FLEXIBILITY IN NUMBER OF TEACHERS.—Each Academy shall select not more than 300 and not less than 50 teachers under clause (i).

(B) TEACHERS FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.—An Academy may select teachers from public schools and private schools to attend the workshop offered by the Academy.

(g) COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a teacher who attends a workshop offered pursuant to this section shall not incur costs associated with attending the workshop, including costs for meals, lodging, and materials while attending the workshop, and may receive a stipend to cover such costs.

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

(h) EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At the completion of all of the workshops assisted in the third year grants are

1 awarded under this section, the National Endow-
2 ment for the Humanities shall conduct an evaluation
3 and submit a report on its findings to the relevant
4 committees of Congress.

5 (2) CONTENT OF EVALUATION.—The evaluation
6 conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

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

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

12 (i) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—An educational institu-
13 tion receiving Federal assistance under this section may
14 contribute non-Federal funds toward the costs of oper-
15 ating the Academy.

16 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
18 \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.

19 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL ACADEMIES FOR STUDENTS OF**
20 **AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—From amounts appropriated
22 under subsection (j), the National Endowment for the Hu-
23 manities shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to
24 educational institutions to establish Congressional Acad-
25 emies for Students of American History and Civics (in this

1 section referred to as “Academies”) that shall offer work-
 2 shops for outstanding students of American history and
 3 civics to broaden and deepen such students’ understanding
 4 of American history and civics.

5 (b) APPLICATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—An educational institution
 7 that desires to receive a grant under this section
 8 shall submit an application to the National Endow-
 9 ment for the Humanities at such time, in such man-
 10 ner, and containing such information as the Na-
 11 tional Endowment for the Humanities may require.

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

14 (A) include the criteria that will be used to
 15 determine which students will be selected to at-
 16 tend workshops offered by the Academy;

17 (B) identify the individual the educational
 18 institution intends to appoint to be the primary
 19 scholar at the Academy;

20 (C) include a description of the curriculum
 21 to be used at workshops offered by the Acad-
 22 emy; and

23 (D) include a description of how the edu-
 24 cational institution will—

1 (i) inform students from schools re-
 2 ceiving assistance under part A of title I of
 3 the Elementary and Secondary Education
 4 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.), par-
 5 ticularly those schools with high concentra-
 6 tions of students described in section
 7 1124(c) of such Act, of the Academy; and
 8 (ii) provide such students with infor-
 9 mation on how to apply to attend work-
 10 shops offered by the Academy so that such
 11 students may attend the workshops.

12 (c) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—The National Endowment
 13 for the Humanities shall award not more than 12 grants
 14 to different educational institutions under this section.

15 (d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Chairman shall encourage
 16 equitable distribution of grants under this section among
 17 the geographical regions of the United States.

18 (e) GRANT TERMS.—Grants awarded under this sec-
 19 tion shall be for a term of 2 years.

20 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—

21 (1) WORKSHOPS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—An educational institu-
 23 tion that receives a grant under this section
 24 shall establish an Academy that shall offer a
 25 workshop during the summer, or during an-

1 other appropriate time, for outstanding stu-
2 dents of American history, government, and
3 civics to broaden and deepen such students' un-
4 derstanding of American history and civics.

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

8 (2) ACADEMY STAFF.—

9 (A) PRIMARY SCHOLAR.—Each Academy
10 shall be headed by a primary scholar identified
11 in the application submitted under subsection
12 (b) who shall—

13 (i) be accomplished in the field of
14 American history and civics; and

15 (ii) design the curriculum for and lead
16 the workshop.

17 (B) CORE TEACHERS.—Each primary
18 scholar shall appoint an appropriate number of
19 core teachers. At the direction of the primary
20 scholar, the core teachers shall teach the work-
21 shop attendees.

22 (3) SELECTION OF STUDENTS.—

23 (A) NUMBER OF STUDENTS.—Each year,
24 each Academy shall select between 100 and 300

1 eligible students to attend the workshop offered
2 by the Academy.

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

6 (i) is recommended by the student's
7 secondary school principal (or other head
8 of such student's academic program) to at-
9 tend the workshop; and

10 (ii) will be a junior or senior in the
11 academic year following attendance at the
12 workshop.

13 (g) COSTS.—

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

20 (2) TRAVEL COSTS.—A student who attends a
21 workshop offered pursuant to this section shall use
22 non-Federal funds to pay for such student's costs of
23 transit to and from the Academy.

24 (h) EVALUATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—At the completion of all of
 2 the workshops assisted in the third year grants are
 3 awarded under this section, the National Endow-
 4 ment for the Humanities shall conduct an evaluation
 5 and submit a report on its findings to the relevant
 6 committees of Congress.

7 (2) CONTENT OF EVALUATION.—The evaluation
 8 conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

9 (A) determine the overall success of the
 10 grant program authorized under this section;
 11 and

12 (B) highlight the best grantees' practices
 13 in order to become models for future grantees.

14 (i) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—An educational institu-
 15 tion receiving Federal assistance under this section may
 16 contribute non-Federal funds toward the costs of oper-
 17 ating the Academy.

18 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 19 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 20 \$14,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.

21 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF TEACHERS OF AMERICAN**
 22 **HISTORY AND CIVICS.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
 25 under subsection (e), the National Endowment for

1 the Humanities shall award 1 or more grants to or-
2 ganizations for the creation of a national alliance of
3 elementary school and secondary school teachers of
4 American history and civics.

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

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

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

11 (b) APPLICATION.—An organization that desires to
12 receive a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
13 tion to the National Endowment for the Humanities at
14 such time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
15 tion as the National Endowment for the Humanities may
16 require.

17 (c) GRANT TERM.—A grant awarded under this sec-
18 tion shall be for a term of 2 years and may be reapplied
19 after the initial term expires.

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

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

(3) Seminars, lectures, or other events focused on American history and civics, which may be sponsored in cooperation with, or through grants awarded to, libraries, States' humanities councils, or other appropriate entities.

(4) Coordinate activities with other nonprofit educational alliances that promote the teaching or study of subjects related to American history and civics.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, and for any administrative costs associated with carrying out sections 3 and 4, \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007.

Attest: EMILY J. REYNOLDS,
Secretary.