

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1971

To provide for recruiting, selecting, training, and supporting a national teacher corps in underserved communities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CASTLE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. REGULA, and Mr. SARBANES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To provide for recruiting, selecting, training, and supporting a national teacher corps in underserved communities.

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 “Teach for America  
5       Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7       The purposes of this part are—

8               (1) to raise the number of highly accomplished  
9       recent college graduates teaching in underserved  
10       urban and rural communities in the United States;

1           (2) to increase the number of school districts  
2           and communities served by a nationally recruited  
3           corps of outstanding new teachers; and

4           (3) to build a broader pipeline of talented and  
5           experienced future leaders in public education and  
6           education reform.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8           In this part:

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The terms “highly quali-  
10          fied”, “local educational agency”, and “Secretary”  
11          have the meanings given the terms in section 9101  
12          of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
13          1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

14          (2) GRANTEE.—The term “grantee” means  
15          Teach For America, Inc.

16          (3) HIGH NEED.—The term “high need”, when  
17          used with respect to a local educational agency,  
18          means a local educational agency in which a sub-  
19          stantial percentage of students are eligible for free  
20          or reduced price meals through the Richard B. Rus-  
21          sell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et  
22          seq.).

23 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

24          The Secretary is authorized to award a grant to  
25          Teach For America, Inc., the national corps of out-

1 standing recent college graduates who commit to teach for  
2 2 years in underserved communities in the United States,  
3 to implement and expand its program of recruiting, select-  
4 ing, training, and supporting new teachers.

5 **SEC. 5. GRANT REQUIREMENTS.**

6 In carrying out the grant program under this part,  
7 the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the  
8 grantee under which the grantee agrees to use the grant  
9 funds—

10 (1) to provide highly qualified teachers to high  
11 need local educational agencies in urban and rural  
12 communities;

13 (2) to pay the cost of recruiting, selecting,  
14 training, and supporting new teachers; and

15 (3) to serve a substantial number of students  
16 who are eligible for free or reduced price meals  
17 through the Richard B. Russell National School  
18 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

19 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

20 Grant funds provided under this part shall be used  
21 by the grantee to carry out each of the following activities:

22 (1) Recruiting and selecting teachers through a  
23 highly-selective national process.

24 (2) Providing preservice training to selected  
25 teachers through a rigorous summer institute that

1 includes hands-on teaching experience and signifi-  
2 cant exposure to education coursework and theory.

3 (3) Placing selected teachers in schools and po-  
4 sitions in high need local education agencies.

5 (4) Providing ongoing professional development  
6 activities for the selected teachers in the classroom,  
7 including regular classroom observations and feed-  
8 back, and ongoing training and support.

9 **SEC. 7. EVALUATION.**

10 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—The grantee shall provide to  
11 the Secretary an annual report that includes—

12 (1) data on the number and characteristics of  
13 the teachers provided to local educational agencies  
14 through the grant under this part;

15 (2) an externally conducted analysis of the sat-  
16 isfaction of local educational agencies and principals  
17 with the teachers so provided; and

18 (3) comprehensive data on the background of  
19 the selected teachers, the training such teachers re-  
20 ceived, the placement sites of the teachers, the pro-  
21 fessional development of the teachers, and the reten-  
22 tion of the teachers.

23 (b) STUDY.—From funds appropriated under this  
24 legislation, the Secretary shall provide for a study com-  
25 paring the academic achievement of students taught by

1 the teachers selected, trained, and placed under this part  
2 with the academic achievement of students taught by other  
3 teachers in the same schools and positions. The Secretary  
4 shall provide for such a study not less than once every  
5 3 years, and each such study shall include multiple local  
6 education agencies. Each such study shall meet the peer-  
7 review standards of the education research community.

8 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9       There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
10 this Act—

- 11           (1) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;  
12           (2) \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;  
13           (3) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and  
14           (4) such sums as may be necessary for each of  
15 the fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

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