

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3168

To establish an educational mentoring pilot program for at-risk youth through community partnerships that provides life, social, academic and vocational skills necessary for youth to become productive law abiding citizens.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To establish an educational mentoring pilot program for at-risk youth through community partnerships that provides life, social, academic and vocational skills necessary for youth to become productive law abiding citizens.

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 “Path to Success: Gang
5 Prevention through Community Partnerships Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to encourage community
8 supported programs that—

1 (1) leverage and enhance community support
2 for at-risk young adults by facilitating the transition
3 of such young adults who are eligible individuals into
4 productive learning environments where such young
5 adults can obtain the life, social, academic and voca-
6 tional skills and credentials necessary to strengthen
7 the Nation's workforce;

8 (2) provide counseling, as appropriate, for eligi-
9 ble individuals participating in the programs to allow
10 such individuals to build a relationship with one or
11 more guidance counselors during the period that the
12 individuals are enrolled in the programs, including
13 providing referrals and connections to community re-
14 sources that help eligible individuals transition back
15 into the community with the necessary life, social,
16 academic and vocational skills after being in deten-
17 tion, or incarcerated, particularly resources related
18 to health, housing, job training, and work-place
19 readiness;

20 (3) provide training and education for eligible
21 individuals participating in the programs, to allow
22 such individuals to assist community officials and
23 law enforcement agencies with the deterrence and
24 prevention of gang and youth violence by partici-

1 pating in seminars, training, and workshops
2 throughout the community; and

3 (4) provide each eligible youth participating in
4 the programs with individual attention based on a
5 curriculum that matches the interests and abilities
6 of the individual to the resources of the program.

7 **SEC. 3. REENTRY EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

8 (a) GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary
9 of Education is authorized to award grants to community
10 colleges to enter into and maintain partnerships with juve-
11 nile detention centers and secure juvenile justice residen-
12 tial facilities to provide assistance, services, and education
13 to eligible individuals who reenter the community and pur-
14 sue, in accordance with the requirements of this Act, at
15 least one of the following:

16 (1) A certificate of graduation from a school
17 providing secondary education, a general equivalency
18 diploma (GED), or another recognized equivalent of
19 such a certificate or diploma.

20 (2) A certificate of completion for a specialized
21 area of study, such as vocational training and other
22 alternative post-secondary educational programs.

23 (3) An associate's degree.

24 (b) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under this
25 Act shall be for one 2-year period, and may be renewed

1 for an additional period as the Secretary determines to
2 be appropriate.

3 (c) APPLICATION.—A community college desiring to
4 receive a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
5 tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
6 containing such information as the Secretary shall require,
7 which shall include—

8 (1) an assessment of the existing community re-
9 sources available to serve at-risk youth;

10 (2) a detailed description of the program and
11 activities the community college will carry out with
12 such grant; and

13 (3) a proposed budget describing how the com-
14 munity college will use the funds made available by
15 such grant.

16 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
17 tion, the Secretary of Education shall give priority to com-
18 munity colleges that accept the highest number of eligible
19 individuals from high-risk areas, and among such commu-
20 nity colleges, shall give priority to community colleges that
21 the Secretary determines will best carry out the purposes
22 of this Act, based on the applications submitted in accord-
23 ance with subsection (c).

1 **SEC. 4. ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS.**

2 A community college awarded a grant under this Act
3 may use such grant to—

4 (1) pay for tuition and transportation costs of
5 eligible individuals;

6 (2) establish and carry out an education pro-
7 gram that includes classes for eligible individuals
8 that—

9 (A) provide marketable life and social skills
10 to such individuals;

11 (B) meet the education program require-
12 ments under section 5;

13 (C) promote the civic engagement of such
14 individuals; and

15 (D) facilitate a smooth reentry of such in-
16 dividuals into the community;

17 (3) create and carry out a mentoring pro-
18 gram—

19 (A) that is specifically designed to help eli-
20 gible individuals with the potential challenges of
21 the transitional period from detention to re-
22 lease;

23 (B) is created in consultation with guid-
24 ance counselors, academic advisors, law enforce-
25 ment officials, and other community resources;
26 and

(C) that is administered by a program coordinator, selected and employed by the community college, who shall oversee each individual's development and shall serve as the immediate supervisor and reporting officer to whom the academic advisors, guidance counselors, and volunteers shall report regarding the progress of each such individual;

(4) facilitate employment opportunities for eligible individuals by entering into partnerships with public and private entities to provide opportunities for internships, apprenticeships, and permanent employment, as possible, for such individuals; and

(5) provide training for eligible individuals participating in the programs, to allow such individuals to assist community officials and law enforcement agencies with the deterrence and prevention of gang and youth violence by participating in seminars and workshop series throughout the community.

SEC. 5. EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

An education program established and carried out under section 4 shall—

(1) include classes that are required for completion of a certificate, diploma, or degree described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 3(a);

1 (2) provide a variety of academic programs,
2 with various completion requirements, to accommo-
3 date the distinctive academic backgrounds, learning
4 curves, and concentration interests of the eligible in-
5 dividuals who participate in the program;

6 (3) offer flexible academic programs that are
7 designed to improve the academic development and
8 achievement of eligible individuals, and to avoid high
9 attrition rates for such individuals; and

10 (4) provide for a uniquely designed education
11 plan for each eligible individual participating in the
12 program, which shall require such individual to re-
13 ceive, at a minimum, a certificate or diploma de-
14 scribed in paragraph (1) of section 3(a) to success-
15 fully complete such program.

16 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

17 Each community college awarded a grant under this
18 Act shall submit to the Secretary of Education a report—

19 (1) documenting the results of the program car-
20 ried out with such grant; and

21 (2) evaluating the effectiveness of activities car-
22 ried out through such program.

23 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “commu-
2 nity college” means a public or nonprofit institution
3 of higher education (as such term is defined in sec-
4 tion 101 or 102(a)(2)(B) of the Higher Education
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1002(a)(2)(B)),
6 that—

7 (A) provides an educational program of not
8 less than two years; and

9 (B) that is accredited by a regional accred-
10 iting agency or association.

11 (2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible
12 individual” means an individual who—

13 (A) is 16 to 19 years of age;

14 (B) has been convicted of a gang-related
15 offense, and has served a period of detention in
16 a juvenile detention center for such offense; and

17 (C) is detained in, or has been released
18 from such center.

19 (3) GANG-RELATED OFFENSE.—The term
20 “gang-related offense” means conduct constituting
21 any Federal or State crime, punishable by imprison-
22 ment in any of the following categories:

23 (A) A crime of violence.

1 (B) A crime involving obstruction of jus-
2 tice, tampering with or retaliating against a
3 witness, victim, or informant, or burglary.

4 (C) A crime involving the manufacturing,
5 importing, distributing, possessing with intent
6 to distribute, or otherwise dealing in a con-
7 trolled substance or listed chemical (as those
8 terms are defined in section 102 of the Con-
9 trolled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)).

10 (4) GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.—The term “guid-
11 ance counselor” means an individual who works with
12 at-risk youth on a one-on-one basis, to establishing
13 a supportive relationship with such at-risk youth and
14 to provide such at-risk youth with academic assist-
15 ance and exposure to new experiences that enhance
16 their ability to become responsible citizens.

17 (5) HIGH-RISK AREA.—The term “high-risk
18 area” means a specified area within a State where
19 there is a disproportionately high number of gang-
20 related activities reported to State and local law en-
21 forcement authorities.

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

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$20,000,000 for the period beginning with fiscal
4 year 2008 and ending with fiscal year 2010.

