

Calendar No. 773

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**H. R. 5524**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 10, 2008

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

To amend the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to authorize appropriations, 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 “Reconnecting Home-
5 less Youth Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Section 302 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 5701) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and
10 (5) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively, and
11 (2) inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

1 “(3) services to such young people should be de-
2 veloped and provided using a positive youth develop-
3 ment approach that ensures the young person a
4 sense of—

5 “(A) safety and structure;

6 “(B) belonging and membership;

7 “(C) self-worth and social contribution;

8 “(D) independence and control over one’s
9 life; and

10 “(E) closeness in interpersonal relation-
11 ships;”.

12 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR CENTERS AND SERVICES.**

13 Section 311 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 5711) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B)(i) by inserting be-
16 fore the semicolon the following:

17 “provided for a continuous period not to
18 exceed 15 days, except that such shelter
19 may be provided for a continuous period
20 not to exceed 21 days if the State where
21 the center is located has an applicable
22 State or local law or regulation that per-
23 mits a length of stay in excess of such 15
24 days in compliance with licensure require-

1 ments for child and youth serving facili-
2 ties”,

3 (2) in subsection (b)—

4 (A) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) by striking “The” and inserting
6 “(A) Except as provided in subparagraph
7 (B) and to the extent that sufficient funds
8 are available, the”,

9 (ii) by striking “\$100,000” and in-
10 serting “\$150,000”,

11 (iii) by striking “\$45,000” and insert-
12 ing “\$70,000”, and

13 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(B) For fiscal years 2009 and 2010, the
16 amount allotted under paragraph (1) with respect to
17 a State for a fiscal year shall be not less than the
18 amount allotted with respect to such State for fiscal
19 year 2008.”,

20 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
21 paragraph (4), and

22 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
23 following:

24 “(3) Whenever the Secretary determines that
25 any part of the amount allotted under paragraph (1)

1 with respect to a State will not be obligated before
2 the end of the fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate
3 such part under paragraph (1) with respect to the
4 remaining States for obligation for such fiscal
5 year.”.

6 **SEC. 4. BASIC CENTER GRANT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.**

7 Section 312(b) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 5712(b)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (11) by striking “and” at the
10 end,

11 (2) in paragraph (12) by striking the period at
12 the end and inserting “; and”, and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(13) shall develop an adequate emergency pre-
15 paredness and management plan.”.

16 **SEC. 5. TRANSITIONAL LIVING GRANT PROGRAM ELIGI-**
17 **BILITY.**

18 Section 322(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth
19 Act (42 U.S.C. 2714-2(a)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1)—

21 (A) by striking “indirectly” the 1st place it
22 appears and inserting “by contract”, and

23 (B) by striking “and services” and insert-
24 ing “, and to provide, directly or indirectly,
25 services”,

1 (2) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) by striking “except that a youth” and
3 inserting the following:

4 “except that in the case of—

5 “(i) a youth”,

6 (B) by inserting “such youth may” after
7 “program,”, and

8 (C) by striking “period;” and inserting the
9 following:

10 “period; and

11 “(ii) a program that is located in a
12 State that has an applicable State or local
13 law or regulation that permits a length of
14 stay in excess of such 540-day period in
15 compliance with licensure requirements for
16 child and youth serving facilities, a youth
17 may remain in such program throughout a
18 continuous period not to exceed 635
19 days;”,

20 (3) in paragraph (14) by striking “and” at the
21 end,

22 (4) in paragraph (15) by striking the period at
23 the end and inserting “; and”, and

24 (5) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(16) to develop an adequate emergency pre-
2 paredness and management plan.”.

3 **SEC. 6. RESEARCH, EVALUATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND**
4 **SERVICE PROJECTS.**

5 Section 343 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 5714-23)) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

9 (1)—

10 (i) by striking “special consideration”

11 and inserting “priority”, and

12 (ii) by striking “relating to” and in-
13 serting “focused on”,

14 (B) in paragraph (8)—

15 (i) by inserting “quality” after “ac-
16 cess to”,

17 (ii) by striking “mental” and inserting
18 “behavioral”, and

19 (iii) by striking “and” at the end,

20 (C) in paragraph (9) by striking the period

21 at the end and inserting the following:

22 “, including educational and workforce programs

23 with outcomes such as decreasing the secondary

24 school drop-out rate, increasing diploma or equiva-

25 lent attainment rates, or increasing placement and

1 retention in postsecondary education or advanced
2 workforce training; or”, and

3 (D) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(10) programs, including innovative programs,
5 that assist youth in obtaining and maintaining safe
6 and stable housing, and may include programs with
7 supportive services that continue after program com-
8 pletion.”, and

9 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(c) In selecting among applicants for grants under
12 subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

13 “(1) give priority to applicants who have experi-
14 ence working with runaway youth or homeless youth;
15 and

16 “(2) ensure that the applicants selected—

17 “(A) are geographically representative of
18 different regions of the United States; and

19 “(B) carry out projects that serve diverse
20 populations of runaway or homeless youth.”.

21 **SEC. 7. ESTIMATE OF INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF**
22 **YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.**

23 Part D of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42
24 U.S.C. 5714-21–5714-24) is amended by adding at the
25 end the following:

1 **“SEC. 345. PERIODIC ESTIMATE OF INCIDENCE AND PREVA-**
2 **LENCE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.**

3 “(a) PERIODIC ESTIMATE.—Not later than 2 years
4 after the effective date of this section, and at 5-year inter-
5 vals thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the
6 United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, shall
7 prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and
8 Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee
9 on Judiciary of the Senate, and make public, a report—

10 “(1) by using the best quantitative and quali-
11 tative social science research method available, con-
12 taining an estimate of the incidence and prevalence
13 of runaway and homeless individuals who are less
14 than 26 years of age and not less than 13 years of
15 age; and

16 “(2) that includes with such estimate an assess-
17 ment of the characteristics of such individuals.

18 “(b) CONTENT.—The report required by subsection
19 (a) shall include—

20 “(1) the results of conducting a survey of, and
21 direct interviews with, a representative sample of
22 runaway and homeless individuals who are less than
23 26 years of age and not less than 13 years of age,
24 to determine past and current—

25 “(A) socioeconomic characteristics of such
26 individuals;

1 “(B) barriers to such individuals obtain-
2 ing—

3 “(i) safe, quality, and affordable hous-
4 ing;

5 “(ii) comprehensive and affordable
6 health insurance and health services; and

7 “(iii) incomes, public benefits, sup-
8 portive services, and connections to caring
9 adults; and

10 “(C) such other information that the Sec-
11 retary determines, in consultation with States,
12 units of local government, and national non-
13 governmental organizations concerned with
14 homelessness, may be useful.

15 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—If the Secretary enters into
16 any contract with a non-Federal entity for purposes of car-
17 rying out subsection (a), such entity shall be a nongovern-
18 mental organization, or an individual, determined by the
19 Secretary to have appropriate expertise in quantitative
20 and qualitative social science research.”.

21 **SEC. 8. SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM.**

22 Section 351(b) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth
23 Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–41(b)) is amended by inserting
24 “public and” after “priority to”.

1 **SEC. 9. NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS CAM-**
2 **PAIGN.**

3 The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C.
4 5701 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating part F as part G, and

6 (2) by inserting after part E the following:

7 **“PART F—NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH**
8 **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

9 **“SEC. 361. NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS CAM-**
10 **PAIGN.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, directly or
12 through grants or contracts, conduct a national homeless
13 youth awareness campaign (referred to in this section as
14 the ‘national awareness campaign’) in accordance with
15 this section for purposes of—

16 “(1) increasing awareness of individuals of all
17 ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and geographic lo-
18 cations, of the issues facing runaway and homeless
19 youth, the resources available for these youth, and
20 the tools available for the prevention of youth run-
21 away and homeless situations; and

22 “(2) encouraging parents, guardians, educators,
23 health care professionals, social service professionals,
24 law enforcement officials, and other community
25 members to seek to prevent runaway youth and

1 youth homelessness by assisting youth in averting or
2 resolving runaway and homeless situations.

3 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to carry
4 out this section for the national awareness campaign may
5 be used only for the following:

6 “(1) The dissemination of educational informa-
7 tion and materials through various media, including
8 television, radio, the Internet and related tech-
9 nologies, and emerging technologies.

10 “(2) Partnerships, including outreach activities,
11 with national organizations concerned with youth
12 homelessness, community-based youth service orga-
13 nizations (including faith-based organizations), and
14 government organizations related to the national
15 awareness campaign.

16 “(3) In accordance with applicable laws and
17 regulations, the development and placement of public
18 service announcements in telecommunications media,
19 including the Internet and related technologies and
20 emerging technologies, that educate the public on
21 the issues facing runaway and homeless youth (or
22 youth considering running away) and on the oppor-
23 tunities that adults have to assist such youth.

24 “(4) Evaluation of the effectiveness of the na-
25 tional awareness campaign.

1 “(c) PROHIBITIONS.—None of the funds made avail-
2 able under subsection (b) may be obligated or expended
3 for any of the following:

4 “(1) To supplant pro bono public service time
5 donated by national or local broadcasting networks,
6 advertising agencies, production companies, or other
7 pro bono work for the national awareness campaign.

8 “(2) For partisan political purposes, or express
9 advocacy in support of or to defeat any clearly iden-
10 tified candidate, clearly identified ballot initiative, or
11 clearly identified legislative or regulatory proposal.

12 “(3) To fund advertising that features any
13 elected officials, persons seeking elected office, cabi-
14 net level officials, or other Federal employees em-
15 ployed in positions in schedule C of part 213 of title
16 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations (January 1,
17 2008), as amended from time to time.

18 “(4) To fund advertising that does not contain
19 a primary message intended to educate the public on
20 the issues facing runaway and homeless youth (or
21 youth considering running away) or on the opportu-
22 nities for adults to help such youth.

23 “(5) To fund advertising that solicits contribu-
24 tions to support the national awareness campaign.

1 “(d) FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE ACCOUNT-
2 ABILITY.—The Secretary shall perform—

3 “(1) audits and reviews of costs of the national
4 awareness campaign pursuant to section 304C of the
5 Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of
6 1949 (41 U.S.C. 254d); and

7 “(2) an audit to determine whether the costs of
8 the national awareness campaign are allowable
9 under section 306 of such Act (41 U.S.C. 256).

10 “(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in each
11 report submitted under section 382 a summary of the na-
12 tional awareness campaign that describes—

13 “(1) the activities undertaken by the national
14 awareness campaign;

15 “(2) steps taken to ensure that the national
16 awareness campaign operates in an effective and ef-
17 ficient manner consistent with the overall strategy
18 and focus of the national awareness campaign; and

19 “(3) each grant made to, or contract entered
20 into with, a particular corporation, partnership, or
21 individual working on the national awareness cam-
22 paign.”.

23 **SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.**

24 Section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
25 (42 U.S.C. 5732a) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (3)(A)—

2 (A) in clause (i)—

3 (i) by striking “not more than” each
4 place it appears and inserting “less than”,
5 and

6 (ii) by inserting after “age” the last
7 place it appears the following:

8 “, or until attaining a higher maximum
9 age if the State where the center is located
10 has an applicable State or local law or reg-
11 ulation that permits such higher maximum
12 age in compliance with licensure require-
13 ments for child and youth serving facili-
14 ties”, and

15 (B) in clause (ii) by striking “age;” and in-
16 sserting the following:

17 “age and either—

18 “(I) less than 22 years of age; or

19 “(II) an age exceeding 22 years
20 of age as of the expiration of the max-
21 imum period of stay permitted under
22 section 322(a)(2)(ii) if such individual
23 commences such stay before attaining
24 22 years of age;”, and

1 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through
2 (7) as paragraphs (5) through (8), respectively.

3 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 Section 388(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 5751(a)) is amended—

6 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to
9 be appropriated to carry out this title (other than
10 parts E and F, and section 345) \$150,000,000 for
11 fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary
12 for fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.”,

13 (2) by amending paragraph (4) to read as fol-
14 lows:

15 “(4) PART E.—There are authorized to be ap-
16 propriated to carry out part E \$30,000,000 for fis-
17 cal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary
18 for fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.”, and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(5) PART F.—There is authorized to be appro-
21 priated to carry out part F \$3,000,000 for each of
22 the fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.

23 “(6) SECTION 345.—There are authorized to be
24 appropriated to carry out section 345 such sums as

1 may be necessary for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011,
2 2012, and 2013.”.

3 **SEC. 12. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**

4 The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C.
5 5701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 **“SEC. 390. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PERFORMANCE STAND-
9 ARDS.—Not later than 1 year after the effective date of
10 this section, the Secretary shall establish by rule perform-
11 ance standards applicable to public and nonprofit private
12 entities and agencies that receive grants under sections
13 311, 321, and 351.

14 “(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF PERFORMANCE STAND-
15 ARDS.—The Secretary shall integrate performance stand-
16 ards established under subsection (a) into the Secretary’s
17 processes for grant-making, monitoring, and evaluation
18 for programs under sections 311, 321, and 351.

19 “(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult
20 with representatives of public and private entities and
21 agencies that receive grants under this title, statewide and
22 regional nonprofit organizations (and combinations of
23 such organizations) that receive grants under this title,
24 and national nonprofit organizations concerned with youth

1 homelessness in developing the performance standards re-
2 quired by subsection (a).

3 “(d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall pro-
4 vide an opportunity for public comment concerning the es-
5 tablishment of the performance standards required by sub-
6 section (a) before issuing rules to establish such stand-
7 ards, and shall maintain an official record of such public
8 comment.”.

9 **SEC. 13. GAO STUDY AND REPORT.**

10 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General shall conduct
11 a study of, and make findings and recommendations relat-
12 ing to, the process for making grants under parts A, B,
13 and E of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, with re-
14 spect to—

15 (1) the written responses made by the Secretary
16 of Health and Human Services to (and any other
17 methods for communicating with) grant applicants
18 who are do not receive a grant under part A, B, or
19 E of such Act, to determine if the information pro-
20 vided in such responses to such applicants is con-
21 veyed clearly,

22 (2) the structure of the grant application and
23 associated documents (including announcements that
24 grants are available under such parts), to determine
25 if such application is structured so that the appli-

1 cant has a clear understanding of what is required
2 in each provision to successfully complete the appli-
3 cation, including a clear explanation of terminology
4 required to be used by the applicant throughout the
5 document,

6 (3) the peer review process (if any) used to re-
7 view grant applications (including the selection of
8 peer reviewers) and the oversight of the peer review
9 process by employees of the Department of Health
10 and Human Services, as well as the extent to which
11 such employees make funding determinations based
12 on the comments and scores of the individuals who
13 perform peer reviews,

14 (4) the typical time frame and the process used
15 by such employees, including employee responsibil-
16 ities, for responding to applicants and the efforts
17 taken to communicate with applicants when there is
18 a delay of decisions on applications or when funds
19 to carry out this title are not appropriated before
20 the beginning of the then current fiscal year, and

21 (5) the plans for and implementation of, where
22 practicable, the new training and technical assist-
23 ance programs and their effect on the grant applica-
24 tion process.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
3 submit a report to the Committee on Education and Labor
4 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
5 Judiciary of the Senate, containing a summary of the re-
6 sults of the study conducted under subsection (a), together
7 with the findings and recommendations made by the
8 Comptroller General based on such results.

Passed the House of Representatives June 9, 2008.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.

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