

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1812

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 18 (legislative day, JULY 17), 2007

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. BAYH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen mentoring programs, 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 “Mentoring America’s
5 Children Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO MENTORING PROGRAMS.**

7 (a) PURPOSE; DEFINITIONS.—Section 4130(a) of the
8 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
9 U.S.C. 7140(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
3 “achievement of such children” and inserting
4 “outcomes of such children by improving their
5 school connectedness, decreasing absenteeism,
6 and increasing academic performance”;

7 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking
8 “and” at the end;

9 (C) in subparagraph (E), by striking the
10 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

12 “(F) to foster character education.”;

13 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “or who
14 lacks strong positive role models” and inserting
15 “who lacks strong positive role models, is a foster
16 youth, or has 1 or both parents incarcerated”;

17 (3) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), by striking “a
18 partnership between a local educational agency and
19 a nonprofit, community-based organization” and in-
20 sserting “a consortium between 1 or more local edu-
21 cational agencies, nonprofit community-based orga-
22 nizations, and other partners, such as corporations,
23 universities, or foster care group homes”; and

24 (4) in paragraph (2)(C)(iii), by inserting “and
25 successful” after “responsible”.

1 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4130(b) of the Ele-
2 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
3 7140(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
5 subparagraph (A), by striking “this subpart under
6 section 4003(2)” and inserting “this section under
7 subsection (d)”;

8 (2) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “(particu-
9 larly” and all that follows through “failure)” and in-
10 sserting “, particularly children living in rural, subur-
11 ban, or urban areas facing high rates of crime, gang
12 involvement, drug use, dropouts, or youth suicides,”;

13 (3) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking clauses (vi)
14 and (viii) and inserting the following:

15 “(vi) Encourage setting goals and
16 planning for the future, including encour-
17 agement of graduation from secondary
18 school, planning for postsecondary edu-
19 cation or training, and participating in in-
20 ternships.

21 “(vii) Discourage involvement in
22 gangs.”;

23 (4) in paragraph (4)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and”
25 at the end;

1 (B) in subparagraph (J), by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
3 and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(K) information regarding the staffing
6 plan and levels the eligible entity will use to
7 monitor the mentor/mentee match over the du-
8 ration of the match; and

9 “(L) information regarding the eligible en-
10 tity’s sustainability plan, specifically how the el-
11 igible entity will meet the required match,
12 which is—

13 “(i) in year 1 of the grant, not less
14 than 10 percent of the amount awarded for
15 that year;

16 “(ii) in year 2 of the grant, not less
17 than 25 percent of the amount awarded for
18 that year;

19 “(iii) in year 3 of the grant, not less
20 than 50 percent of the amount awarded for
21 that year; and

22 “(iv) for an entity receiving subse-
23 quent funding under paragraph (5)(E), in
24 all 3 years of the grant the match shall be

1 not less than 50 percent of the amount
2 awarded for that year.”;

3 (5) in paragraph (5)—

4 (A) by striking subparagraph (B)(i) and
5 inserting the following:

6 “(i) serves children with greatest need
7 living in rural areas, high-crime areas,
8 troubled home environments, or commu-
9 nities with a high rate of youth suicide,
10 who attended school with violence prob-
11 lems, or who are foster children;”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

13 (i) in clause (i), by striking “urban
14 and rural” and inserting “urban, subur-
15 ban, and rural”;

16 (ii) in clause (ii)(II), by inserting
17 after “organizations,” the following: “chil-
18 dren,”; and

19 (iii) in clause (iii), by inserting after
20 “mentoring program” the following: “and
21 sustain it for the duration of the grant and
22 beyond”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end following:

24 “(E) SUBSEQUENT GRANTS.—In awarding
25 grants under subparagraph (A), the Secretary

1 shall consider entities who have received fund-
2 ing in a prior grant cycle for a new grant only
3 if each of the following criteria is met:

4 “(i) Performance during the initial
5 grant was satisfactory in terms of program
6 design and numbers of children served.

7 “(ii) The subsequent grant will exclu-
8 sively support expanded service to a new
9 geographic area or target population.

10 “(iii) The eligible entity demonstrates
11 that it is able to provide a 50 percent
12 match to Federal funds for all 3 years of
13 the new grant.

14 “(F) POLICY ON ONE ENTITY HAVING TWO
15 GRANTS AT SAME TIME.—In awarding grants
16 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may
17 have in effect a policy under which an entity is
18 prohibited from having 2 grants at the same
19 time. However, such a policy shall not prohibit
20 an entity from having 2 grants at the same
21 time when the periods of the 2 grants overlap
22 by 3 months or less.”.

23 (c) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—Section 4130 of the
24 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20

1 U.S.C. 7140) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(c) ENSURING QUALITY GRANTS.—

4 “(1) SUPPORT FOR GRANTEES.—In order to en-
5 sure the strongest possible outcomes for children
6 mentored through this section, the Secretary shall—

7 “(A) provide training and technical assist-
8 ance to grant recipients, beginning in year 1
9 and continuing throughout the span of the
10 grant;

11 “(B) track the mentoring practices and
12 outcomes of all grant recipients throughout the
13 3-year span of the grant utilizing a robust on-
14 line tracking and evaluation system; and

15 “(C) submit an annual report to Congress
16 detailing the number of children served by
17 grant recipients and the outcomes achieved for
18 those children.

19 “(2) RESEARCH ON SCHOOL-BASED MEN-
20 TORING.—In order to ensure that grant recipients
21 have access to the most current research-based
22 knowledge about building and carrying out strong
23 and effective mentoring programs, the Secretary
24 shall do the following:

1 “(A) Consult with leading mentoring orga-
2 nizations and researchers, including the Federal
3 Mentoring Council and the National Mentoring
4 Working Group, to determine priorities for re-
5 search on school-based mentoring and appro-
6 priate research design, with consideration for—

7 “(i) determining the ideal school envi-
8 ronments in which school-based mentoring
9 succeeds;

10 “(ii) identifying techniques for match-
11 ing children with specific characteristics
12 (such as age, academic situation, risk fac-
13 tors) with the most appropriate mentoring
14 models;

15 “(iii) determining the ideal infrastruc-
16 ture needed to foster the expansion of
17 school-based mentoring in a sustainable
18 way; and

19 “(iv) refining best practices, match
20 activities, and a range of mentoring models
21 to lead to the best possible outcomes for
22 children.

23 “(B) Issue grants or contracts to high-
24 quality research entities to perform research on

1 the priorities identified in subparagraph (A),
2 with the following criteria:

3 “(i) The proposed research design
4 shall meet accepted standards within the
5 academic community.

6 “(ii) All research results and findings
7 shall be widely disseminated to existing
8 grantees and to the larger mentoring com-
9 munity.

10 “(C) Issue grants or contracts only if
11 amount appropriated for each fiscal year under
12 subsection (d)(1) exceeds \$50,000,000.

13 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; RES-
14 ERVATION OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—

15 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to
16 be appropriated to carry out this section
17 \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as
18 may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

19 “(2) RESERVATIONS.—Each fiscal year, the
20 Secretary shall reserve—

21 “(A) not more than 5 percent of the
22 amount appropriated for that fiscal year under
23 paragraph (1) for expenditure on support for
24 grantees as authorized by subsection (c)(1); and

1 “(B) not more than 10 percent of the
2 amount appropriated for that fiscal year under
3 paragraph (1) for expenditure on research as
4 authorized by subsection (c)(2).”.

5 (d) REVISIONS TO OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—

6 (1) INCLUSION OF MENTORING FOR MINORITY
7 PROGRAMS.—

8 (A) Section 7121(c)(1) of the Elementary
9 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
10 U.S.C. 7441(c)(1)) is amended—

11 (i) in subparagraph (E), by inserting
12 “, including mentoring,” after “programs
13 and projects”; and

14 (ii) in subparagraph (J), by inserting
15 “, including mentoring,” after “programs”.

16 (B) Section 7205(a)(3) of the Elementary
17 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
18 U.S.C. 7515(a)(3)) is amended—

19 (i) in subparagraph (H)(ii), by insert-
20 ing “, including mentoring” after “pro-
21 grams”; and

22 (ii) in subparagraph (I)(iii), by insert-
23 ing “, mentoring,” after “counseling”.

24 (C) Section 7304(a)(2)(P) of the Elemen-
25 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20

1 U.S.C. 7544(a)(2)(P)) is amended by inserting
2 “or mentoring programs” after “program”.

3 (2) TRANSITION SERVICES.—Section
4 1418(a)(2)(C) of the Elementary and Secondary
5 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6438(a)(2)(C)) is
6 amended—

7 (A) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the
8 end;

9 (B) in clause (v), by striking the period at
10 the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(vi) youth mentoring programs.”.

13 (3) NATIONAL SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS
14 PROGRAMS.—Section 4121(a)(2) of the Elementary
15 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
16 7131(a)(2)) is amended—

17 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking
18 “and” at the end;

19 (B) in subparagraph (D), by adding “and”
20 at the end; and

21 (C) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(E) school and community-based men-
23 toring programs;”.

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