

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5756

To amend title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 to provide for grants and technical assistance to improve services rendered to children and adults with autism, and their families, and to expand the number of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2010

Mr. DOYLE (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 to provide for grants and technical assistance to improve services rendered to children and adults with autism, and their families, and to expand the number of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Training and Research for Autism Improvements Na-  
4 tionwide Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL TRAINING INITIATIVES ON AUTISM SPEC-**  
6 **TRUM DISORDERS.**

7 Title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance  
8 and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.)  
9 is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 **“Subtitle F—National Training Ini-**  
11 **tiative on Autism Spectrum Dis-**  
12 **orders**

13 **“SEC. 171. NATIONAL TRAINING INITIATIVE.**

14 “(a) GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

15 “(1) GRANTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-  
17 sultation with the Interagency Autism Coordi-  
18 nating Committee, shall award multiyear grants  
19 to eligible entities to provide individuals (includ-  
20 ing parents and health, allied health, vocational,  
21 and educational professionals) with interdiscipli-  
22 nary training, continuing education, technical  
23 assistance, and information for the purpose of  
24 improving services rendered to children and  
25 adults with autism, and their families, to ad-  
26 dress unmet needs related to autism.

1           “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—To be eligible to  
2           receive a grant under this subsection, an entity  
3           shall be—

4                   “(i) a University Center for Excel-  
5                   lence in Developmental Disabilities Edu-  
6                   cation, Research, and Service; or

7                   “(ii) a comparable interdisciplinary  
8                   education, research, and service entity.

9           “(C) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An  
10          entity that desires to receive a grant for a pro-  
11          gram under this paragraph shall submit to the  
12          Secretary an application—

13                   “(i) demonstrating that the entity has  
14                   capacity to—

15                           “(I) provide training and tech-  
16                           nical assistance in evidence-based  
17                           practices to evaluate, and provide ef-  
18                           fective interventions, services, treat-  
19                           ments, and supports to, children and  
20                           adults with autism and their families;

21                           “(II) include individuals with au-  
22                           tism and their families as part of the  
23                           program to ensure that an individual-  
24                           and family-centered approach is used;

1 “(III) share and disseminate ma-  
2 terials and practices that are devel-  
3 oped for, and evaluated to be effective  
4 in, the provision of training and tech-  
5 nical assistance; and

6 “(IV) provide training, technical  
7 assistance, interventions, services,  
8 treatments, and supports under this  
9 subsection statewide;

10 “(ii) providing assurances that the en-  
11 tity will—

12 “(I) provide trainees under this  
13 subsection with an appropriate bal-  
14 ance of interdisciplinary academic and  
15 community-based experiences; and

16 “(II) provide to the Secretary, in  
17 the manner prescribed by the Sec-  
18 retary, data regarding the number of  
19 individuals who have benefitted from,  
20 and outcomes of, the provision of  
21 training and technical assistance  
22 under this subsection;

23 “(iii) providing assurances that train-  
24 ing, technical assistance, dissemination of

1 information, and services under this sub-  
2 section will be—

3 “(I) consistent with the goals of  
4 this Act, the Americans with Disabil-  
5 ities Act of 1990, the Individuals with  
6 Disabilities Education Act, and the  
7 Elementary and Secondary Education  
8 Act of 1965; and

9 “(II) conducted in coordination  
10 with relevant State agencies, institu-  
11 tions of higher education, and service  
12 providers; and

13 “(iv) containing such other informa-  
14 tion and assurances as the Secretary may  
15 require.

16 “(D) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant received  
17 under this subsection shall be used to provide  
18 individuals (including parents and health, allied  
19 health, vocational, and educational profes-  
20 sionals) with interdisciplinary training, con-  
21 tinuing education, technical assistance, and in-  
22 formation for the purpose of improving services  
23 rendered to children and adults with autism,  
24 and their families, to address unmet needs re-  
25 lated to autism. Such training, education, as-

1           sistance, and information shall include each of  
2           the following:

3                   “(i) Training health, allied health, vo-  
4                   cational, and educational professionals to  
5                   identify, evaluate the needs of, and develop  
6                   interventions, services, treatments, and  
7                   supports for, children and adults with au-  
8                   tism.

9                   “(ii) Developing model services and  
10                  supports that demonstrate evidence-based  
11                  practices.

12                  “(iii) Developing systems and prod-  
13                  ucts that allow for the interventions, serv-  
14                  ices, treatments, and supports to be evalu-  
15                  ated for fidelity of implementation.

16                  “(iv) Working to expand the avail-  
17                  ability of evidence-based, lifelong interven-  
18                  tions; educational, employment, and transi-  
19                  tion services; and community supports.

20                  “(v) Providing statewide technical as-  
21                  sistance in collaboration with relevant  
22                  State agencies, institutions of higher edu-  
23                  cation, autism advocacy groups, and com-  
24                  munity-based service providers.

1 “(vi) Working to develop comprehen-  
2 sive systems of supports and services for  
3 individuals with autism and their families,  
4 including seamless transitions between  
5 education and health systems across the  
6 lifespan.

7 “(vii) Promoting training, technical  
8 assistance, dissemination of information,  
9 supports, and services.

10 “(viii) Developing mechanisms to pro-  
11 vide training and technical assistance, in-  
12 cluding for-credit courses, intensive sum-  
13 mer institutes, continuing education pro-  
14 grams, distance based programs, and Web-  
15 based information dissemination strategies.

16 “(ix) Promoting activities that sup-  
17 port community-based family and indi-  
18 vidual services and enable individuals with  
19 autism and related developmental disabil-  
20 ities to fully participate in society and  
21 achieve good quality-of-life outcomes.

22 “(x) Collecting data on the outcomes  
23 of training and technical assistance pro-  
24 grams to meet statewide needs for the ex-

1           pansion of services to children and adults  
2           with autism.

3           “(E) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—The amount  
4           of a grant to any entity for a fiscal year under  
5           this section shall be not less than \$250,000.

6           “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary  
7           shall reserve 2 percent of the amount appropriated  
8           to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year to make  
9           a grant to a national organization with dem-  
10          onstrated capacity for providing training and tech-  
11          nical assistance to—

12           “(A) assist in national dissemination of  
13           specific information, including evidence-based  
14           best practices, from interdisciplinary training  
15           programs, and when appropriate, other entities  
16           whose findings would inform the work per-  
17           formed by entities awarded grants;

18           “(B) compile and disseminate strategies  
19           and materials that prove to be effective in the  
20           provision of training and technical assistance so  
21           that the entire network can benefit from the  
22           models, materials, and practices developed in  
23           individual centers;

24           “(C) assist in the coordination of activities  
25           of grantees under this subsection;



1           “(D) develop a Web portal that will pro-  
2           vide linkages to each of the individual training  
3           initiatives and provide access to training mod-  
4           ules, promising training, and technical assist-  
5           ance practices and other materials developed by  
6           grantees;

7           “(E) serve as a research-based resource for  
8           Federal and State policymakers on information  
9           concerning the provision of training and tech-  
10          nical assistance for the assessment, and provi-  
11          sion of supports and services for, children and  
12          adults with autism;

13          “(F) convene experts from multiple inter-  
14          disciplinary training programs, individuals with  
15          autism, and the families of such individuals to  
16          discuss and make recommendations with regard  
17          to training issues related to assessment, inter-  
18          ventions, services, treatment, and supports for  
19          children and adults with autism; and

20          “(G) undertake any other functions that  
21          the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

22          “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
23          To carry out this subsection, there are authorized to  
24          be appropriated \$17,000,000 for fiscal year 2011

1 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fis-  
2 cal years 2012 through 2015.

3 “(b) EXPANSION OF THE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY  
4 CENTERS FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DIS-  
5 ABILITIES EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND SERVICE.—

6 “(1) GRANTS.—To provide for the establish-  
7 ment of up to 4 new University Centers for Excel-  
8 lence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Re-  
9 search, and Service, the Secretary shall award up to  
10 4 grants to institutions of higher education.

11 “(2) APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—Except for  
12 subsection (a)(3), the provisions of subsection (a)  
13 shall apply with respect to grants under this sub-  
14 section to the same extent and in the same manner  
15 as such provisions apply with respect to grants  
16 under subsection (a).

17 “(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this  
18 subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to appli-  
19 cants that—

20 “(A) are minority institutions that have  
21 demonstrated capacity to meet the requirements  
22 of this section and provide services to individ-  
23 uals with autism and their families; or

24 “(B) are located in a State with one or  
25 more underserved populations.

1           “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2           To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to  
3           be appropriated \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
4           2011 through 2015.

5           “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6           “(1) The term ‘autism’ means an autism spec-  
7           trum disorder or a related developmental disability.

8           “(2) The term ‘interventions’ means edu-  
9           cational methods and positive behavioral support  
10          strategies designed to improve or ameliorate symp-  
11          toms associated with autism.

12          “(3) The term ‘minority institution’ has the  
13          meaning given to such term in section 365 of the  
14          Higher Education Act of 1965.

15          “(4) The term ‘services’ means services to as-  
16          sist individuals with autism to live more independ-  
17          ently in their communities.

18          “(5) The term ‘treatments’ means health serv-  
19          ices, including mental health services, designed to  
20          improve or ameliorate symptoms associated with au-  
21          tism.

22          “(6) The term ‘University Center for Excellence  
23          in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research,  
24          and Service’ means a University Center for Excel-  
25          lence in Development Disabilities Education, Re-

1 search, and Service that has been or is funded  
2 through subtitle D or subsection (b).”.

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