

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2932

To provide for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish grant programs to improve the health and positive youth development impacts of youth sports participation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2015

Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. VEASEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish grant programs to improve the health and positive youth development impacts of youth sports participation, 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 “Physical activity, Liv-
5 ing healthy, Access, Youth development, and Safety in
6 Youth Sports Act” or the “PLAYS in Youth Sports Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) ORGANIZATION GRANT PROGRAM.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
4 Human Services shall establish a competitive grants
5 program (in this section referred to as the “Organi-
6 zation Grants Program”) to award grants, in ac-
7 cordance with paragraph (3), to eligible national
8 non-profit organizations to improve the health and
9 positive youth development impacts of youth sports
10 participation, in accordance with paragraph (4).

11 (2) ELIGIBLE NATIONAL NON-PROFIT ORGANI-
12 ZATION.—For purposes of this subsection, a national
13 non-profit organization shall be eligible for a grant
14 under this subsection if such organization—

15 (A) has experience with working with re-
16 gional and local non-profit youth sports organi-
17 zations in the areas of improved health, positive
18 youth development, and safe playing environ-
19 ments consistent with the types of activities de-
20 scribed in paragraph (5); and

21 (B) submits to the Secretary a plan for
22 awarding subgrants to regional and local non-
23 profit youth sports organizations to improve
24 physical activity or sports programs carried out
25 in the areas served by such organizations to im-

1 prove the health of youth through, and have
2 positive impacts on, youth sports participation.

3 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

4 (A) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Each grant
5 awarded under this subsection shall be no more
6 than \$250,000 and no less than \$10,000.

7 (B) SELECTION OF GRANTEES THROUGH
8 GRANT SELECTION BOARD.—

9 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one
10 year after the date on which funds are first
11 appropriated to carry out this section, the
12 Secretary shall establish a grant selection
13 board to select the eligible national non-
14 profit organizations to be awarded grants
15 under this subsection.

16 (ii) COMPOSITION.—Such board shall
17 consist of 10 members to be selected from
18 the Department of Health and Human
19 Services, including from the following:

20 (I) The Administration for Chil-
21 dren and Families (ACF), in par-
22 ticular the Family and Youth Services
23 Bureau.

24 (II) The Office of the Assistant
25 Secretary for Health, in particular the

1 Office of Adolescent Health and the
2 President's Council on Fitness,
3 Sports, and Nutrition.

4 (III) The Centers for Disease
5 Control and Prevention, in particular
6 the Office of Noncommunicable Dis-
7 eases, Injury and Environment
8 Health, and the National Center for
9 Injury Prevention and Control.

10 (IV) The Center for Faith-Based
11 and Neighborhood Partnerships.

12 (V) The National Institutes of
13 Health, in particular the National In-
14 stitute of Child Health and Human
15 Development and the National Insti-
16 tute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal
17 and Skin Diseases.

18 (iii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting
19 grantees under this subsection, the board
20 under this subparagraph shall, with respect
21 to a plan described in paragraph (2)(B)
22 submitted by a national non-profit organi-
23 zation, evaluate the plan based on the abil-
24 ity of the plan to ensure that the grant will
25 help improve the physical activity or sports

1 program involved in at least one of the fol-
2 lowing areas:

3 (I) Effectiveness, through activi-
4 ties described in paragraph (5)(B).

5 (II) Participation, through activi-
6 ties described in paragraph (5)(C).

7 (III) Health and Safety, through
8 activities described in paragraph
9 (5)(D).

10 (4) USES OF GRANTS.—A grant awarded under
11 this subsection to an eligible non-profit organization
12 may be used by such organization only for awarding
13 subgrants in accordance with paragraph (5) and
14 consistent with the plan submitted by the organiza-
15 tion under paragraph (2)(B).

16 (5) USES OF SUBGRANTS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—

18 (i) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—A
19 subgrant awarded to a regional and local
20 non-profit youth sports organization pursu-
21 ant to this subsection may be used by such
22 organization for only the activities de-
23 scribed in the subsequent subparagraphs of
24 this paragraph in accordance with the pro-
25 visions of the respective subparagraph.

1 (ii) EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES.—A
2 subgrant awarded to a regional and local
3 non-profit youth sports organization pursu-
4 ant to this subsection may not be used by
5 such organization for any of the following:

6 (I) Any activity the organization
7 is in the process of conducting or
8 planning to conduct as of the date of
9 application for a subgrant under this
10 subsection.

11 (II) Any activity primarily de-
12 signed to expand the organization
13 among those portions of the commu-
14 nity that would otherwise participate
15 in youth sports, rather than those ef-
16 forts aimed at a particularly under-
17 served participating portion of the
18 community.

19 (III) Efforts that are not likely
20 to be continued after funding from
21 the subgrant has expired.

22 (iii) AMOUNT OF SUBGRANTS.—A
23 subgrant under this subsection shall be not
24 more than \$10,000 and not less than
25 \$1,000.

1 (B) ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE-
2 NESS OF YOUTH SPORTS.—

3 (i) ACTIVITIES.—The activities de-
4 scribed in this subparagraph are activities
5 that promote effectiveness of physical ac-
6 tivities or youth sports, including the fol-
7 lowing:

8 (I) Training and certification
9 programs for coaches, in accordance
10 with clause (ii).

11 (II) Developing and imple-
12 menting coaching guidelines described
13 in clause (iii).

14 (III) Training for youth develop-
15 ment and character development.

16 (IV) Developing or implementing
17 evaluation and results implementation
18 process.

19 (V) Instructing positive parental
20 involvement.

21 (VI) Developing and imple-
22 menting an athlete code of conduct
23 and instruction.

1 (VII) Developing and imple-
2 menting coach and volunteer retention
3 efforts.

4 (VIII) Fostering a positive sport
5 experience for all involved that em-
6 phasizes athlete development over win-
7 ning at all costs.

8 (IX) Activities to enhance affects
9 beyond the playing field, such as with
10 respect to nutrition practices, aca-
11 demic performance, encouragement of
12 life-long practices, and promotion of
13 positive self-image.

14 (ii) TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION
15 PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS.—For pur-
16 poses of clause (i)(I), a training or certifi-
17 cation program for coaches described in
18 such clause—

19 (I) shall be based on consensus
20 within the youth sports non-profit
21 community;

22 (II) should be interactive;

23 (III) should aspire to coaching
24 education at the youth sport level that
25 provides coaches with baseline knowl-

1 edge in the areas of coaching philos-
2 ophy and style, communication, team
3 management, practice and game-day
4 planning, first aid, and rules as well
5 as sport-specific content on teaching
6 the techniques and tactics of the re-
7 spective sport;

8 (IV) should include content that
9 is complete, comprehensive, afford-
10 able, and user-friendly; a convenient
11 online 24/7 delivery system; supple-
12 mental resources and support mate-
13 rials, such as coaching youth sports
14 books, study guides, forms, checklists,
15 and plans; and a web-based tracking
16 and reporting interface that docu-
17 ments a national coaches registry; and

18 (V) should emphasize athlete de-
19 velopment over winning at all costs.

20 (iii) COACHING REQUIREMENTS.—For
21 purposes of clause (i)(II), the coaching
22 guidelines described in this clause, with re-
23 spect to planning and practice of youth
24 sports, are guidelines to achieve the fol-
25 lowing:

1 (I) Developing and refining the
2 philosophy and style of such coaching.

3 (II) Developing the character of
4 the youth athletes through role-mod-
5 eling, teaching, and exhibiting appro-
6 priate citizenship behaviors.

7 (III) Communicating effectively
8 by role-modeling, teaching, and ex-
9 pecting honest and effective commu-
10 nication.

11 (IV) Guiding athletes to develop
12 self-confidence by modeling and teach-
13 ing self-confident attributes and be-
14 haviors and creating situations in
15 which athletes experience success.

16 (V) Teaching the sport involved
17 effectively by teaching the rules, sys-
18 tems, and defined plays of the sport
19 involved.

20 (VI) Teaching technical and tac-
21 tical skills effectively by instructing
22 athletes in the use of correct and safe
23 techniques and teaching how to proc-
24 ess game situations to gain a competi-
25 tive advantage.

1 (VII) Teaching sport decision-
2 making skills effectively by modeling
3 and teaching perception, attention,
4 and concentration skills.

5 (VIII) Challenging athletes in
6 practice and competition by devel-
7 oping season and practice plans to
8 create optimally challenging, safe, and
9 effective practices and competitions.

10 (IX) Physically preparing ath-
11 letes by modeling, teaching, and ex-
12 pecting appropriate physical training,
13 nutrition, and drug-free habits.

14 (X) Taking all measures feasible
15 to ensure the safety of athletes by
16 checking facilities and equipment (and
17 how such equipment fits), monitoring
18 athletes' activities closely, and cor-
19 recting unsafe behavior immediately.

20 (XI) Managing relationships ef-
21 fectively by modeling, teaching, and
22 expecting positive interactions between
23 coaches, athletes, parents, administra-
24 tors, medical personnel, officials, and
25 media.

1 (XII) Supporting scholastic
2 achievement by expecting commitment
3 to academics and teaching the value
4 of education.

5 (C) ACTIVITIES RELATING TO PARTICIPA-
6 TION.—The activities described in this subpara-
7 graph are activities to lead to sustained in-
8 creases in participation in youth sports, includ-
9 ing the following:

10 (i) Activities to lower barriers to par-
11 ticipation, such as by making it easier for
12 youth with disabilities to participate, ac-
13 quiring or modifying space, raising money
14 for an endowment to keep participation
15 fees low or free, including through scholar-
16 ships.

17 (ii) Activities to target populations
18 under-represented in youth sports or par-
19 ticularly at-risk communities, such as girls
20 and other under-represented minorities,
21 populations in geographical areas with par-
22 ticular low participation rates, populations
23 with high obesity risk, populations in high
24 crime and violence areas, homeless youth,

1 youth with behavioral issues, youth with
2 physical or mental disabilities.

3 (iii) Activities for capacity building.

4 (iv) Activities to engage parents and
5 other family members to encourage life-
6 long physical activity.

7 (D) ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE SAFETY AND

8 HEALTH.—

9 (i) ACTIVITIES.—The activities de-
10 scribed in this subparagraph are activities
11 to promote safety and health, including the
12 following:

13 (I) Background checks described
14 in clause (ii)(I) and the establishment
15 of procedures for such background
16 checks in accordance with clause
17 (ii)(II).

18 (II) Abuse prevention and re-
19 sponse activities described in clause
20 (iii).

21 (III) Measures to implement pro-
22 gram improvements as broadly as pos-
23 sible within the organization receiving
24 the subgrant by providing resources
25 for activities, such as administrative

1 guidelines and materials, training op-
2 portunities, and codes of conduct.

3 (IV) Training programs to ad-
4 dress the matters described in clause
5 (iv).

6 (V) Prevention efforts to prevent
7 and reduce the occurrence of concus-
8 sions (through baseline screening,
9 clear return to play and other post-
10 concussion protocols, prevention ef-
11 forts, parent and participant edu-
12 cation) and of overuse and overload
13 and injury risk.

14 (VI) Practices to encourage
15 water drinking, increased physical
16 movement, nutritious snacks, and na-
17 tional healthy eating practices.

18 (VII) Targeted programs for par-
19 ticular at-risk behavior or at-risk pop-
20 ulations, such as with respect to lat-
21 eral injuries in girls and for partici-
22 pants with physical and mental dis-
23 abilities, such as Type 1 diabetes, eat-
24 ing disorders, and sickle cell trait.

25 (VIII) Parent education.

1 (IX) Parent code of conduct and
2 instruction.

3 (X) Athlete code of conduct and
4 instruction.

5 (XI) Bullying prevention.

6 (XII) Safety procedures for en-
7 gagement of youth sports photog-
8 raphers.

9 (XIII) Venue and event safety.

10 (XIV) Participant comprehensive
11 health history and pre-screening re-
12 cording, evaluation, and privacy secur-
13 ing, including in a standardized form
14 or way that make it easy for partici-
15 pants to share their information with
16 other organizations.

17 (XV) Encouraging and facili-
18 tating participation in the Presidential
19 Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) of
20 participants.

21 (ii) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

22 (I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes
23 of clause (i)(I), background checks de-
24 scribed in this clause—

1 (aa) check for known of-
2 fenses and pending actions of
3 abuse, harm, or violent behavior
4 and molestation of youth by
5 coaches, mentors, or other adults
6 with access to youth sports par-
7 ticipants;

8 (bb) screen employees, con-
9 tractors, and volunteer forces
10 who have regular contact with
11 youth participants, authority or
12 supervision roles with respect to
13 such youth, opportunity to estab-
14 lish a position of trust with re-
15 spect to such youth, or oppor-
16 tunity for one-on-one contact
17 with such youth;

18 (cc) should utilize advance-
19 ments in technology that make
20 criminal history information
21 available to these organizations;

22 (dd) must provide for reli-
23 able, rapid, comprehensive, up-to-
24 date checks at a very reasonable
25 cost so that the organizations can

1 make informed screening deci-
2 sions;

3 (ee) provide access to crimi-
4 nal background information that
5 has been recently updated, and is
6 dependable, complete, and
7 accessed from national databases,
8 county courts (county of resi-
9 dence) and all available State sex
10 offender registries; and

11 (ff) provide screenings that
12 generally cover identity
13 verification, using social security
14 number validation and address
15 trace report; National Criminal
16 database search, updated regu-
17 larly with more than 300 million
18 criminal records; the Office of
19 Foreign Assets Control terrorist
20 database search; Sex Offender
21 Registry search of all available
22 States with at least one county
23 search that generally covers long-
24 est and most recent residency in
25 the past five years.

1 (II) PROCEDURES.—For pur-
2 poses of clause (i)(I), the establish-
3 ment of procedures for conducting
4 and reviewing background checks de-
5 scribed in subclause (I) shall identify
6 who is responsible for conducting the
7 checks, reviewing the criminal history
8 records, determining fitness, notifying
9 the volunteer or staff of the decision,
10 managing legally compliant notices,
11 and the dissemination, control, stor-
12 age, and destruction of information
13 gained in the background check.

14 (iii) ABUSE PREVENTION AND RE-
15 SPONSE ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of
16 clause (i)(II), abuse prevention and re-
17 sponse activities described in this clause
18 are the following:

19 (I) The development and rein-
20 forcement of appropriate communica-
21 tion, training, and response protocols
22 for abuse and other inappropriate be-
23 havior.

24 (II) Awareness, prevention, and
25 response guidelines, including a pro-

1 tocol to immediately report potential
2 criminal behavior on the part of any
3 coach or official to the appropriate
4 law enforcement agency.

5 (III) Reference checking of vol-
6 unteers, including previous clubs,
7 teams, or athletes with whom the indi-
8 vidual has worked.

9 (IV) Questioning about the indi-
10 vidual's behaviors and if anyone has
11 reported any inappropriate behavior
12 that might be of concern.

13 (V) Work with insurance pro-
14 viders or other risk management ex-
15 perts to help maintain a safe environ-
16 ment.

17 (iv) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—For pur-
18 poses of clause (i)(IV), the matters de-
19 scribed in this clause are the following:

20 (I) First aid, CPR, and
21 defibrillator.

22 (II) Mild traumatic brain injury
23 or concussion.

24 (III) Heat acclimatization and
25 heat illness prevention.

1 (IV) Human kinetics coaching
2 education.

3 (V) Risk management.

4 (VI) Legal issues.

5 (VII) Pre-participation Physical
6 Evaluation (PPE).

7 (VIII) Emergency planning.

8 (IX) Training practices.

9 (X) Strength and conditioning.

10 (XI) Nutrition.

11 (XII) Recognizing sports-related
12 illnesses and injuries.

13 (XIII) Prevention and care of
14 concussions.

15 (XIV) Equipment fitting.

16 (XV) Safe playing conditions.

17 (6) FUNDING.—There is authorized to carry
18 out this subsection such sums as may be necessary.

19 (b) STATE AND LOCAL GRANT PROGRAM.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
21 Human Services may establish a grant program
22 under which the Secretary shall award one-time
23 competitive grants to municipalities, counties, and
24 States to fund efforts of such municipalities, coun-
25 ties, and States to establish and implement model

1 standards, such as through surveys, studies, pilot
2 programs, and guidelines, for out-of-school youth
3 sports coaches.

4 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A grantee under this
5 subsection must agree to enact or improve imple-
6 mentation of standards that—

7 (A) do not conflict or otherwise negatively
8 interfere with standards that apply within the
9 jurisdiction of such grantee; and

10 (B) are aimed at improving effectiveness,
11 participation, and health and safety of youth
12 sports.

13 (3) PERMITTED ACTIVITIES.—A grant under
14 this subsection may be used for activities including
15 the following:

16 (A) Surveys.

17 (B) Studies.

18 (C) Pilot programs.

19 (D) Development of guidelines and stand-
20 ards.

21 (E) Education and outreach.

22 (F) Implementation efforts.

23 (4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Grants under this
24 subsection shall be awarded, with respect to model

1 standards described in paragraph (1), based on the
2 following criteria:

3 (A) Number of coaches affected by such
4 standards.

5 (B) Degree with which activities and
6 standards, as applicable, are easy and afford-
7 able to the organization or coach involved.

8 (C) Comprehensiveness of such standards
9 and the number of subjects covered effectively
10 by such standards.

11 (5) REPORTS.—

12 (A) BY GRANTEES.—As a condition of re-
13 ceipt of a grant under this subsection, a grantee
14 shall submit to the Secretary of Health and
15 Human Services such information as specified
16 by the Secretary, by such time as specified by
17 the Secretary, to complete the report described
18 in subparagraph (B).

19 (B) BY SECRETARY.—Not later than five
20 years after the date of the enactment of this
21 Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
22 ices shall publish a national report on lessons
23 learned from the model standards implemented
24 pursuant to grants awarded under this sub-
25 section. The report shall—

1 (i) measure the effectiveness of such
2 standards in improving health, safety, par-
3 ticipation rate, and inclusion; and

4 (ii) describe the areas in which fund-
5 ing under such grants was spent, including
6 by purposes and outcomes.

7 (6) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be ap-
8 propriated to carry out this section such sums as are
9 necessary.

10 **SEC. 3. YOUTH SPORTS RESEARCH.**

11 (a) GAO STUDY.—Not later than two years after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
13 of the United States shall submit to Congress a report
14 on—

15 (1) a history of the prior 50 years of Federal
16 Government programs used to help promote the ef-
17 fectiveness, participation, health, and safety of non-
18 school based organized youth sports; and

19 (2) evidence available on the effectiveness and
20 outcomes of such programs.

21 (b) HHS STUDY.—Not later than two years after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health
23 and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report
24 on—

1 (1) youth sports risk prevention efforts con-
2 ducted or supported by the Department of Health
3 and Human Services and other Federal agencies;

4 (2) beneficial practices in place relating to such
5 efforts and the effectiveness of such practices; and

6 (3) assessing further steps and resources need-
7 ed to reduce risks and increase the benefits of
8 sports.

9 **SEC. 4. SAFETY PROMOTION.**

10 The Secretary of Health and Human Services is au-
11 thorized, through the Centers for Disease Control and
12 Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, to un-
13 dertake, support, enhance, and expand research and pre-
14 vention efforts to advance youth sports safety.

○